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L E T T E R S, &c.

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L E T T E R S  
WRITTEN DURING  
A T O U R  
T H R O U G H T H E  
N O R T H E R N A N D E A S T E R N S T A T E S  
O F  
A M E R I C A ;

—❖❖❖❖—  
BY JOHN DRAYTON.  
—❖❖❖❖—

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The scenes of Business tell us—"What are Men?"

The scenes of Pleasure—"What is all beside?"

YOUNG'S NIGHT THOUGHTS.

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CHARLESTON: SOUTH-CAROLINA,  
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND BOWEN.

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M,DCC,XCIV.



By Henry P. Holmes - May 9<sup>th</sup> 1807.

Tr. R.  
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P R E F A C E.



NOTHING is more common, at the first commencement of a young author's career, than to solicit the public favor; and if possible, thereby to support a work, perhaps unworthy of their patronage. But however that custom may have been in use, I cannot in justice to my own feelings, or consistently with the respect which I owe the subscribers to this work in particular, and the public in general, do otherwise, than present it to them liable to any liberal criticism, which its incorrections may occasion,

When

373049

## P R E F A C E.

WHEN I first began, the letters which compose it ; their publication was the farthest from my thoughts. My then inducement, was as much the tribute of friendship to an absent acquaintance, as a source of pleasure to myself ; in thus filling up, the many leisure moments of a traveller's time, which are otherwise thrown away upon the *excesses of a town*, or the ruin of a gaming table. I had no plan ; but freely wrote from the impulse of the moment, as circumstances permitted, or subjects were occasionally afforded me. Hence, those who expect a critical and exact description of persons, places and things will be disappointed. For it was not a catalogue of things, or a journal of daily occurrences, which I committed to paper ; it was the images impressed on

me



## P R E F A C E.

me respecting public occurrences, which I wished to preserve. I therefore noted them; as well for the refreshment of my own memory, as to afford me in some measure an honorable acquittal as to the use of my time, to those of my friends, who had favored me with letters of introduction.

THE delay of publishing this work, renders some excuse necessary. Unquestionably, I ought to have given it to the world sooner: it was my duty to have done so—and, had it depended only upon me; in this, no disappointment would have taken place. But so great was the scarcity of paper, that for a length of time every endeavor to obtain it, was rendered ineffectual. Nor is that which is now used, as  
good

## P R E F A C E.

good as was intended; all that can be said in its favor is, that it is the best which could be obtained.

As Mr. Genet is now recalled, and another minister substituted in his place; the strictures respecting him would have been omitted, could that have been done with consistency. But, as the public were promised this conclusion to the work, they shall not be disappointed: however mal à propos it may come forward at this late day. And, except the addition of some few notes; the text is presented such as was intended for publication in November last.

*Charleston, October 6, 1794.*

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court of Common Pleas.

E R R A T A.

Page.	Line.	
8.	1.	For the one the right, read the one on the right.
12.	2.	For Rout, read Route.
60.	10.	For Which, read Whom.
86.	9	For Earth, read Castle.
105.	86.	For Inforced, read Enforced.
128.	19.	For Majic, read Magic.

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A  
T O U R, &c.

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L E T T E R I.

*A description of the entrance to New-York;  
in which mention is made of Mr. Bingham's  
country seat.*

*New-York, June 15, 1793.*

MY DEAR SIR,

ALTHOUGH separated from you by countries, which present a change of climate and of manners, yet believe me, I still indulge the most pleasing remembrance of an absent friend: and with transport do I reflect, that writing affords me an opportunity of still enjoying your  
A sentiments,

sentiments, and of informing you of mine. With satisfaction, shall some of my hours be devoted to this sweet tribute of friendship: and when joy shall smile around my dwelling, or melancholy bend my head in pensive thought; I will not forget him, with whom I have been accustomed to share them both.

I HAVE at length, arrived at this place; where, the first thing which possesses my mind, is with soft regret to remember those from whom I am now separated. Affections, or friendships, are never so tried, as when absence removes from the sight those, who are their object. Then, and not until then, is every passion alive; and each interview, recalled with fond remembrance to the imagination. And, while the heart throbs with pleasure at former bliss; it heaves with fearful anxiety; lest some untoward accident should sink the soul with sorrow, or follow the complaining pen with unavailing tears. But thank heaven, I have nothing to inform you which can be the cause of pain: matters, which  
 have

have made a pleasing impresson upon me since my departure, shall alone at present be the subject of recital. I will inform you, that after seven days agreeable sailing, we made the land, in the neighbourhood of the inlet to this city. It was the Jersey shore, to the southward of Sandy-Hook: and soon after we came in view of the high land of Never-sink. Presenting a variety of prospect, which with a Carolinean accustomed to a level country, was particularly pleasing.

IMAGINE to yourself the Atlantic bounded on the left, by a yellow and bold beach, as you are sailing immediately for the entrance into New-York: where, the hills rise immediately from the shore to a considerable height: imagine the vallies, and hills, in spots cleared by the hand of industry; some parts of which, where the vegetation was brought forward, presented to the eye a beautiful carpet of differently coloured greens; while others, newly turned up by the plough were tinged with a beautiful brown:

brown: and you will have some idea of a prospect, which is still fresh in my memory. Immediately in view of the highest part of the high lands, and within a small distance of them, is a seat of Mr. Bingham's: which affords a beautiful prospect\*. It is retired about a mile from the shore; from its high situation overlooks the lands before it, and is bounded only by the distant horizon. On its right, the Jersey shore extends as far as the eye can see; wooded with oak and hickory: and on the left are the high lands of Never-sink, rising high above the waters in gentle majesty. Within musket shot of this beautiful shore did we sail, without any danger of accidents. For no breakers foaming over shoals, here terrify the sight: but deep water, and a shore where the sea barely murmured along its bound, seemed to invite us near this agreeable sojourn.

FROM

N O T E.

\* Within sight of this place, the engagement was fought by the Ambuscade and Boston frigates.



FROM the base of these high lands a neck of land called Sandy-hook, runs out into the sea, for about half a mile, making an obtuse angle; and forming within its embrace on one side, and Staten island on the other a beautiful bay. It is very narrow; and upon it an handsome lighthouse is built, for the direction of vessels. Crossing this bay, we arrived at the entrance to New York: formed by Staten-island on the south, and by Long-island on the north. Where, on either island, hill and valley, meadows and farms present themselves to the enraptured sight. Soon, we passed the narrows.—Called so, because the high lands of Staten and Long-islands, approach each other so much as to make the passage way not more than a mile wide. Here, during the American war forts were constructed; whose guns could shoot with certainty, from shore, to shore. And now, at the distance of four leagues, the city of New-York stretches into sight.

BEFORE arriving at it, we passed three small islands; which chequer the prospect with beautiful

tiful variety. The one the right, contains about thirty acres of ground; has some handsome elevations upon it, as well as some houses; it is called the governor's island: custom having given him the privilege of receiving the rents accruing from it. The other two islands, are on the left. The first of them, contains about fifteen acres of ground, rising gradually from the water to a beautiful elevation in the centre: it is covered with verdure, and crowned with an handsome villa shaded by a few trees. The other, is a small island; upon which, there are several houses: which, from the lowness of the land, seem almost to be built in the water.

AFTER passing these islands, we came opposite the battery; which is at the extreme point of the town: and is situated much like that, which was at White Point at Charleston. It has no merlons, or embrasures; but the guns (which are thirteen in number) are placed upon carriages on a stone platform *ex barbette*, some few feet above the level of the

water.

water. Between the guns, and the water is a public walk ; made by a gentle decline from the platform : and going round the ground upon which the battery is placed. Some little distance behind the guns, two rows of elm trees are planted ; which in a short time will afford an agreeable shade. The flag staff rises from the midst of a stone tower, and is decorated on the top with a golden ball : and the back part of the ground is laid out in smaller walks, terraces, and a bowling green.—Immediately behind this, and overlooking it, is the government house ; built at the expence of the state. Then in the back ground, was the city of New-York, crowded with excellent buildings : and its wharves lined with shipping, and with people. For the day being Sunday, the inhabitants were naturally invited to the waters edge ; as well for pleasure, as excited by curiosity.

JUDGE then, what were my sensations in sailing up to this city,—where, nature, population,  
and

and art, had with a generous hand spread so great a collection of beauties before the eye. I was enraptured with the scene. And would you believe me when I say, a wish escaped from me, that I had lived at New-York? It did: But I soon recalled the wanderer home, and flew in imagination to Carolina: there, to throw in my small exertions for my country's good: to which, however imperceptible the thread which binds me may be, my actions for its prosperity shall ever tend. And I trust, as long as nature speeds the blood warm from my heart, shall make me true to her interests in politics, and attached to her by undivided affection. For, within her embrace are contained, almost all which is dear to me in this life. Let my hopes, which are but moderate, but which are pure; be smiled upon by favoring heaven. Let me enjoy the friendship with you, which chance has formed, but which reflection has approved—and I shall have reason to bless my native land. And with encircling friends at my return take pleasure to smile  
away

away the day, satisfied with the meridian of  
Carolina,

LETTER

## L E T T E R II.

*An account of the City of New-York. Its commerce and public buildings. Its library and museum. Its public amusements. The happy situation of the state of New-York respecting taxes, contrasted with that of South-Carolina.*

*New-York, June 25, 1793.*

**T**O-MORROW, I propose leaving this place, on my rout for Boston: and my stay here, contrary to my original determination, gives me a lesson of which I shall be mindful in future. Which is, never to resolve to leave a place at a certain time; where, the hospitality of its inhabitants may persuade one to the contrary. That, has been my case. Having met with unexpected attentions from families and persons, to whom, I had no letters: and whose acquaintance was not to be obtained but by a short stay. This, was my reason for not pursuing my destination: it was not through a fickleness of  
of



of disposition, or in a wild pursuit of pleasure. And this stay, furnishes me with the means, as well as the opportunity, of once more addressing you before my departure: and of giving some account of the city of New-York. First premising, that you must not expect more particulars, than you may imagine in the course of a fortnight, with reasonable enquiries and observations, I may have obtained.

It claims a superiority of situation as a commercial city, to any on the continent. Retired, about eight leagues from the sea; in half a tide, vessels from thence may be moored at its wharves. It is built at the extreme end of New-York island, at the confluence of the Hudson and East rivers: and in position is much like that of Charleston. On the south of it, runs the Hudson, some hundred miles; thro' the states of New-York, New-Jersey, and at the back of Connecticut and Vermont; until it wastes itself in the country between the lakes Ontario, and Champlain. It is the boundary between the states of Jersey and New-York;

and

and the channel of great wealth to that city. Up this river, British forty gun ships have failed some distance. Upon the border of it, was Arnold's and Andre's plot carried on: and its bosom (which had it been sensible, would have shrunk from such a weight of infamy) received the traitor in his escape to New-York. On the northern side, is East river; famous for having hell-gate on it. We shall pass it to-morrow. No Sibyl guiding our course as Æneas had;\* however, I hope not to be less fortunate. This river communicates with the sound, running between Long-Island and the state of Connecticut: and leads much of the commerce of Rhode-Island and Connecticut to this city.

THE greater part of its wharves, are built upon East river: and there, the trade of the city is principally carried on. It is said to contain

N O T E.

*\* Ibant obscuri solâ sub nocte per umbram,  
Perque domos Ditis vacuas, et inania regna.*

VIRG.

tain thirty thousand inhabitants ; and is crowded with stores and shops : the most of which are in the retail line, though many of them are in the wholesale business. Quite like an European town, there are few articles which may not be here obtained : and that cheaper, than in Carolina. How to account for this, I am at a loss : but believe it may in some measure be owing, to property in vessels, more punctuality in payments, and shorter credits. Almost every merchant, has a property in shipping : hence, in proportion as he gains by the freight, he can afford to reduce the price of his goods. And is not driven to the necessity of putting an additional advance upon them, in order to compensate for the expence of freight ; unavoidably incurred by the employ of a foreign bottom. The common time of crediting the farmers, is six months. Added to this, people in a busy line of life, are satisfied to live comfortably : and do not endeavour to equal their neighbours in show, whose good fortune it is to enjoy more easy circumstances. Thus, having fewer wants to gratify, they can afford to sell cheap : and although sometimes they may be

flow

flow in amassing a fortune, yet in the end they are more sure of enjoying a comfortable and independent living. Industry, appears as the leading character among the catalogue of their virtues. It directs them to pursuits, where an harmony of action adds happiness to the individual; and rejoices him to see founded thereon, the strength of his country. In honest occupations perhaps no Americans are more attentive: whether we view them as relating to perseverance, or ingenuity. And I never saw the latter more tried, than in a contest between two public vendue criers: which, one day, arrested my attention in the streets.

BESIDES having a flag, denoting it to be auction day, the vendue masters employ public criers: for the express purpose of persuading people to attend the sale. They walk before the door of the auction room, and strive by all the power of their eloquence, to catch the attention of the passing crowd. Seeing two of these street orators, from opposite sides of the street endeavouring to rally persons around their respective colours;

colours; the contrast of person observable in them induced me to stop for a moment, and observe the effect which it produced. The one, appeared to be a cold, phlegmatic character; the other, a lively, good looking person. The first, had a routine of language, which he dealt out mechanically, and with much vociferation. The other, with a brisk lively deportment, while he informed the public what was going on within doors, lost no opportunity of mixing the dulce cum utile. He spared his lungs, when he perceived no body coming that way: but when any advances were made towards him, he spoke, he sang, he looked pleasant, he laughed at his opponent; and in many cases, finally carried his point. Whether it were that his auction room were in better request, or that his mode of invitation were more agreeable; certain it is, that he attracted a greater number of customers, than his unmoving rival. And such an advantage, will lively and sensible characters ever have over those, who want elasticity in their composition. They catch the public attention, by their manners; and persuade

suade the mind to notice the subject of discussion.

FROM eleven to two o'clock, the merchants, brokers, &c. meet at the Tontine coffee-house, in Wall-street; where, they transact all their concerns in a large way, and where, the politics of the day are considered. This, is a most convenient, and large building; having an elegant suit of rooms, bath, and other conveniences. Here, the insurance offices are kept: blank checks on the different banks, are ready for those who may want them, and every thing in the busy line transacted. When the Ambuscade frigate was here, there was a vast throng in this house, every evening. It consisted of two parties, and was productive of much opposition of sentiment; which, I believe would ere long have brought them to extremities, had not the cap of liberty, with a motto on it of "*Sacred to Liberty*," been fixed up in the coffee room; where, it now is. This, quieted the minds as well of the one party, as the other: and sent to attend upon their family concerns

concerns many men, who were better employed at home, than in the discussion of politics.

THE streets of the city are all paved with round stones, except on the sides: where, they are generally paved with brick, or flat stones. They are irregular. Some, of them being straight; some, forming almost a bend of half a circle; others, cutting them acutely; others, forking, and making a triangular area of houses. One part of a street, may be wide enough for several carriages to pass; while another part of it, admits only two with difficulty. The best streets in it are Broad-way, Broad-street, Queen-street, and Wall-street. But notwithstanding this irregularity, there is something extremely agreeable in the appearance of the town. The irregularities themselves, tend to make it so; particularly the curves in some of the streets: which, consequently do not give the full prospect at once; but by degrees unfold it to the view. It is in this way, that Federal-hall opens to the sight, as one walks up Broad-street.



At the lower end of Broad-way, is the battery, and public parade; of which, I have already given you some account\*: and I now present you with a sketch of it, as seen from this spot. While I was taking it, the Ambuscade sailed by, having a liberty cap on the fore-top-gallant-mast head. I drew it with pleasure, hoping that it would be an ornament to the piece: as I trust every thing, which brings to the mind ideas of social liberty, and good government, will be.

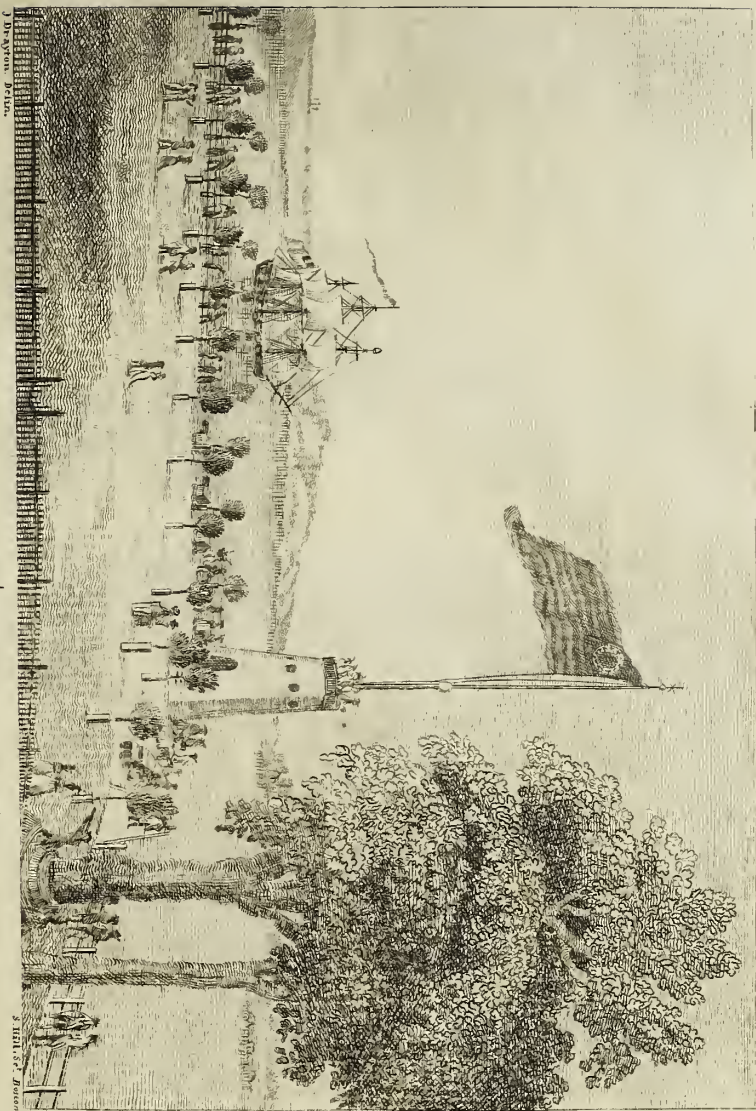
OVERLOOKING this prospect, is the government house; placed upon an handsome elevation, and fronting Broad-way: having before it an elegant illiptical approach, round an area of near an acre of ground, enclosed by an iron railing. In the midst of this is a pedestal, which formerly was pressed by a leaden equestrian statue of the king of Great-Britain: but having been dismantled of that, for the use of the

N O T E

\* See Page 8.



*View of the BATTERY and HARBOUR of New York, and the AMBUSCADE FRIGATE.*





the continental army, it now remains ready, in due time I hope, to receive the statue of the President of the United States of America. When that period shall arrive, in addition to the many daily occurrences which lead the mind of the passenger to pensive reflection; this monument of his country's gratitude shall call his attention: and while deeds of former times, shall pass in sweet review before him, the tear, shall lament the loss of an hero—but the heart collected within itself, shall urge him by so bright an example, to call forth his powers, and to pursue the steps of virtue, and of honor\*.

A VAST number of houses have been built in this city, since the war; some of which are  
extremely

N O T E.

\* *Sed tamen, ex omnibus præmiis virtutis si effect habenda ratio præmiorum, amplissimum esse præmium gloriam: esse hanc unam, quæ brevitatem vite posteritatis memoria consolaretur: quæ efficeret, at absentes adessemus, mortui viverimus: hanc denique esse, cujus gradibus etiam homines in celum videantur ascendere.*

CIC.

extremely ornamental : and none more so, than the government house. It is two stories high. Projecting before it is a portico, covered by a pediment : upon which is superbly carved in basso relievo the arms of the state, supported by justice and liberty, as large as life. The arms and figures are white, placed in a blue field : and the pediment is supported by four white pillars of the Ionic order, which are the height of both stories.

FEDERAL-HALL, is built upon Wall-street, and fronts Broad-street, in the same manner, as the government house does Broad-way. This, is an elegant and grand building ; well adapted for a senatorial presence. Here, I saw portraits of the president, of the secretary of the treasury, and of the present governor of this state ; executed by colonel Trumbull as large as life : and as far as I could judge good likenesses. The back ground of the president's portrait, represents a part of New-York ; and the British fleet sailing up the narrows. Here, are also a museum, and library. The library contains about  
five

five thousand volumes. The museum, was shewn to the worst advantage; being but partially exposed, and that, in a very small room.\*

AT the upper end of Broad-way, fronting an area of three or four acres of ground (which are laid out in public walks, and planted with trees)

N O T E.

\* THE museum has been since moved from Federal hall to the exchange, at the foot of Broad street: where, it offers a more extensive gratification to the spectator. Among its present curiosities is the model (in clay) designed, and executed by the celebrated Italian artist in statuary, Mr. Ceracchi, for perpetuating the memory of American liberty. It is made upon a scale proportioned to one hundred feet in length, and as many feet in height: and for grandeur, and emblematical device, is supposed would surpass any thing of the kind, whether ancient or modern. Nothing, but the expence attending the execution of it, has impeded its progress: that being estimated at forty thousand guineas.—Perhaps, at some future day, should Mr. Ceracchi be then living, the finances of America may assist the completion of so happy a design. Here also is to be seen Mr. Bowen's wax-work, in the middle of the museum.

trees) are some public buildings ; consisting of a bridewell, a poor house, and jail : with its attendant the gallows. The criminal is here partly hidden by a lattice work ; which, I am led to believe may have a good tendency : as whether the culprit dies bravely or like a coward, those around are ignorant of it. The mob goes away, not enlarging upon the fortitude of his death : but commenting upon the certainty of his punishment. And thence, drawing instruction  
for

N O T E.

feum. Among which, are those of Alexander Hamilton, secretary of the treasury of the United States, Dr. Franklin, and John Hancock, late governor of the commonwealth of Massachusetts. These, with the rest of the collection, are now placed with an happy taste in a room sixty feet, by thirty : with an arched ceiling of twenty feet high.

THE building in which this museum is kept, was formerly the public resort of merchants ; and has been long built. It is supported on arcades, and is ornamented with a cupola ; on the top of which in regal times a crown was placed. But that now lies neglected, and almost unnoticed in a corner of the museum ; giving way to the more pleasing decoration of a liberty cap.



for a moral conduct; not encouragement in a vicious one.

NEAR these buildings is an hospital, capable of containing a large number of invalids : and some little distance from it is the college ; where about eighty students are at present. They have their studies in the college, but are boarded out in the city. In addition to the improvement acquired here common to the classes of a college, lectures upon anatomy, chymistry, and other branches appertaining to surgery and physic, are delivered under the direction of the college ; and I am informed there are about thirty students who now attend them.

SCARCELY out of the city, is a very good ship-yard, situated upon East river. Yesterday, a ship capable of carrying nine hundred barrels of rice, was launched from it : and several more are upon the stocks, one of which is to be an Indiaman. While speaking of shipping permit me to mention, that lee-boards are  
 very

very much in use at this place, with all the small floops, and other light boats ; particularly with those navigating the Hudfon, and attending the ferries. They are a great assistance to them, in failing close upon the wind ; and seem by their use, much to meet the public approbation.

I JUST arrived here time enough to be at their concerts, and plays. Their band which is good, has the great addition of Mrs. Pownal's voice ; whom I have heard sing at the play, the concert, and at Trinity church (St. John's day.) She may with truth, be considered as a good performer. And although the reverend divine at church, seemed to deliver himself with much earnestness ; yet such was the crowd, that the voice of Mrs. Pownal alone, arrested attention ; and claimed the privilege of being heard. She is advanced in years ; came over from England last fall ; and still retains vast powers in vocal music. The company of actors acquit themselves very well, and do not stand in need of much prompting ;  
which,



which, is an advantage they have over many in the same line of life.

Good hackney-coaches, phaetons or other carriages may now be hired at New-York; it is necessary however to give some little previous notice, as they are kept at no public stand; but only at the houses of their respective owners.

THE rides in the neighbourhood of the city, are for miles beautiful. Every elevation of ground, presenting some handsome country seat.—With what pleasure, have I often viewed them. They were as much mine at those moments, as the real possessors'. I enjoyed each beauty, as much as they could do: and there was nothing wanting to render my happiness complete, but the company of those who are dear to me.

THE state of New-York, is certainly in its present situation enviable; for there are scarce-

D

ly

ly any taxes levied in it. The state has so much money in the funds, that the interest of it, after paying the expences of government, leaves a balance in its favour\*. It derives this principally from the confiscations and amercements, which took place in consequence of the American war.

How different, is the situation of Carolina! —In some instances, the state has been obliged to refund the monies received from the sales of confiscated property: in others, to pay the value of the estates sold. Hence, an addition to the exigencies of government. While her citizens, dispirited with their extreme loss of indentments;

#### N O T E.

\* SINCE the period when the above letter was written, the accounts of the United States with the individual states have been adjusted; by which it appears, that the state of New-York is indebted to the United States in the sum of 2,074,846 dollars. And that the United States are indebted to the state of South-Carolina, in the sum of 2,205,973 dollars.

dents; are still obliged to raise the enormous annual tax, of forty thousand pounds sterling; as yet hopeless of any reduction\*.

A CONTRAST of this nature, so much to her disadvantage: so much against the prosperity of a country standing high in the page of history, for sufferings during the American war; throws such a gloom upon me, as here to let the curtain fall. Though not without first assuring you of my sincere remembrance.

N O T E.

\* THE tax levied in South Carolina for the year 1790, was about £ 24,000 sterling.

1791,	36,000
1792,	40,000
1793,	40,000

LETTER

L E T T E R    III.

*A Visit to Fresh-Pond.*

*Boston, July 3, 1793.*

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I HAVE been led into these expressions, by making an excursion this afternoon to a place called Fresh-Pond: being about five miles from hence. Where, nature has spread both land and water in soft perspective to delight the eye; and to charm the imagination with improvements which might be made on it. It was there, that I saw and conversed with a maid, whose age, person and manners were as much like one who bears the name of ———, as you may possibly conceive. She went and picked a water-lilly and gave it to me; sweet  
pledge

pledge of attention! It now lays on the table before me. Would that I could nourish thee for ever, thou best emblem of innocence. For, how many soft ideas have swept over my fond imagination, since I first received thee to my protection. But, how are those sensations recalled, quick to a painful point; when I reflect that the fairest forms in nature, and the most beautiful flowers of the field, must die. It languishes, it dies—And like it die all the sublunary prospects of man; leaving not a wreck behind.

It is late; and I am to rise at five to-morrow, for the purpose of hearing a poem delivered at six, in honor of the day: which, I make no doubt you will join me in celebrating. May refreshing repose prepare us to hail with decent festivity, and affectionate remembrance, an anniversary; which, has placed America on a rank with nations: and causes her to be respected by the sovereigns of the world.

LETTER

## L E T T E R    I V.

*The Fourth Day of July—how celebrated at  
Boston.*

*Boston, July 7, 1793.*

I DID not go to hear the poem on the fourth instant, an accident disappointed me. However, at twelve o'clock of that day, I had the pleasure of hearing an oration delivered in commemoration of the anniversary of American independence: which, afforded me ample compensation.

REMARKABLE for the omission of nothing tending continually to keep alive, principles of patriotism and knowledge; the inhabitants of Boston do not so much celebrate this day by noise, riot, and feasting, as by bringing to the recollection of the old, and spreading to the minds of the young, its collected happiness. The old, are publicly called upon to witness the  
the

the oppression, which was the cause of the American revolution. They, are invited to contrast the present situation of the country, with former times: and by a bright countenance, and joyful assent, to acknowledge how much the change is for the better. The young, are learned the obligations which they owe their parents; who have been instrumental in their present happiness. They, become fired with a love of their country, and enthusiasts in the cause of social liberty.

“ THOSE of you my countrymen (said John Quincy Adams,\* who delivered the oration upon that occasion) those of you, who were actors in those interesting scenes, will best know, how feeble and impotent is the language of this description, to express the impassioned emotions of the soul, with which  
you

N O T E.

\* THIS gentleman has been since appointed minister resident from the United States of America, to their high mightinesses the states general of the United Netherlands.

‘ you were then agitated : yet, it were injustice  
 ‘ to conclude from thence, or from the greater  
 ‘ prevalence of private, or personal motives in  
 ‘ these days of calm serenity, that your sons  
 ‘ have degenerated from the virtues of their fa-  
 ‘ thers. -Let it rather be a subject of pleasing re-  
 ‘ flection to you, that the generous and disin-  
 ‘ terested energies, which you were summoned  
 ‘ to display, are permitted by the bountiful in-  
 ‘ dulgence of Heaven to remain latent in the  
 ‘ bosoms of your children. From the present  
 ‘ prosperous appearance of our public affairs,  
 ‘ we may admit a rational hope that our coun-  
 ‘ try will have no occasion to require of us  
 ‘ those extraordinary, and heroic exertions,  
 ‘ which it was your fortune to exhibit. But  
 ‘ from the common versatility of all human def-  
 ‘ tines, should the prospect hereafter darken,  
 ‘ and the clouds of public misfortune thicken,  
 ‘ to a tempest ; should the voice of our coun-  
 ‘ try’s calamity ever call us to her relief, we  
 ‘ swear by the precious memory of the sages  
 ‘ who toiled, and of the heroes who bled in  
 ‘ her defence, that we will prove ourselves not  
 ‘ unworthy of the prize, which they so dearly  
 purchased ;



• purchased ; that we will act as the faithful disciples of those who so magnanimously taught us the instructive lesson of republican virtue.”

SUCH, were the sentiments that day disseminated among an approving audience, by a young man, chosen by the townsmen for that particular occasion. Such, have been the sentiments, which for twenty-two years\* have annually roused the citizens to a knowledge of their situation. And such, will be the sentiments, which for times to come shall I hope arrest their attention ; and impress them with the duties of their several stations.

SHOULD we trace the medium of patriotism, through all its different stages ; and follow it, from the hordes of savages who roam the wilds unrestrained by the fetters of law, to where,  
we

\* ORATIONS have been annually delivered in Massachusetts upon the subject of liberty and government, since the year 1771.

we meet societies of politeness and civilization ; we will find, that nothing is better calculated to impress this ardor patriæ, than the voice of recital and persuasion, in the face of one's country. The savage, sings the deeds of his fathers : and round the sacred fire, excites the young men to glory. In societies, games, anniversaries and orations, recal continually to remembrance, the happiness of the state, and the virtues of its deserving citizens. Sweet essence of every noble action, it is to thee, Fame, that virtuous exertions tend. If man were to die, and be forgotten ; life, would oftentimes be purchased, with the loss of honor. " I will not blot and defile that which is past (says the illustrious Sidney) by endeavouring to provide for the future. I have ever had in my mind, that when God should cast me into such a condition, as that I cannot save my life, but by doing an indecent thing : he shows me, that the time is come, wherein I should resign it."

Is there a man, who upon these public occasions, when every generous emotion is called  
forth

forth, whose heart doth not glow with feelings too great to tell? Is there one, who doth not then feel the blood speed from his heart; spreading an applauding blush over his face: while at times, a chill shoots like lightning over every part of his body: and an honest pride, sits trembling on his eye?—If there be such; he is not born to live with his equals upon earth. His heart, callous to feeling, is fit only to be in the breast of a tyrant—or to vegetate with the continual drudgery of a slave.\*

## LETTER

## N O T E.

\* ——— hic niger est: hunc tu Romane caveto.

HOR.

## L E T T E R V.

*Passage from New-York to Newport. Account of that town. The situation of its commerce. Its public amusements. A ride through the island: affording an account of the face of the country. Passage from Newport, to Providence. Description of the town. Its commerce. Journey from thence to Boston; and the hospitality of its inhabitants.*

*Boston, July 9, 1793.*

MY being in so complaining an humour when I wrote to you on the third instant, hindered me from giving any account of what occurred during my coming hither. Such a disposition at that moment, was the cause of much egotism, which is at no time common with me; but in which I may indulge, when I can trust it to the bosom of a friend. For, herein consists the essence, and happiness of friendship. It is in this communication of sentiments, of pleasures and of pains; of prospects of happiness,

ness, or impending storms of misfortune, that an heart rejoices in an union of souls. By the commerce of friendship, every sweetness in life is appreciated: while its soft accents smooth its uneasy ruggedness, and meliorate the bitterness of misfortune.

I WENT from New-York to Newport in the state of Rhode-island, by the way of the sound; which, runs between Long-island and the main, almost the whole of the way: through the extent of one hundred and fifty miles. The prospects which every where meet the eye, during this jaunt, are very agreeable. The unevenness of the island, alternately rising into hills, or sinking into vallies; crowned with woods or opening fields of agriculture; are what I am persuaded would have given you pleasure to have seen. They would have brought to your recollection the place, which it has been my happiness to name, and your politeness to call "*the Prospect*:" and which, I hope now presents you with an harvest flattering to your wishes.

THERE

THERE is so great an intercourse between the several towns upon this sound, and the city of New-York, that it is consequently crowded with vessels: of which, we generally had in sight fifteen or twenty. Before entering upon the sound, we passed through Hell-gate: serving to strengthen an opinion I had long formed; that obstacles, and dangers in travelling were found always less upon trial, than from the relations of a traveller. Instead of much danger and sublimity of scene, I saw nothing but a strong tide, and rocks scattered along the passage, over which the water rippled. After a sail of twenty-six hours, we arrived at the town of Newport: situated on an island in Narraganset bay: and having before it a quiet and deep harbour, quite protected from winds by a small island which is before the town; upon which there has been a large fort, for its protection. At present, nothing gives it a military appearance, but the flag: the fort, having been entirely dismantled.

THE town, is said to contain about seven thousand inhabitants. And I am afraid, is rather



ther in decline, than in prosperity. The wrath of kings, fell upon it during the American war; and it felt so severely the scourge of their armies and fleets; that it will be long ere it shall recover its former prosperity. Besides, it has a more serious difficulty to contend with, in being rivalled of its commerce by the town of Providence; situated about ten leagues farther up the country.

THE inhabitants have lately fitted up a room in the form of a theatre, capable of containing about two hundred persons: much in the style of what *Harmony-hall* was with us. They have a rope-dancer attached to the company, by the name of Placide. I saw him, and his wife, who is an handsome woman, about twenty-two years of age, dance an allemande upon the stage: in which, their bodies were thrown into a variety of positions. Some, wherein the fancy might almost rage free of controul: others, wherein every elegance of form, was displayed to an admiring assemblage of spectators. They seemed to move by mechanism, so easy were their attitudes;

tudes ; and so fine, the union of affection which seemed to produce them.

AT this place, is a library house: I wish I could say a library. But that alas! has been taken away, by the pilfering hand of the British. Who in this, as well as in other instances, carried on war not only against men, but against learning. And like the Goths and Vandals, swept every thing before them, which they could possibly do:

I took a ride through the extent of the island, which is about twelve miles long. It is parcelled out every way into small farms, which are divided, and laid out in all directions, by stone walls. There is not much variety in the scene. The eye, is thrown around for trees; but in vain. The zephyrs, have no foliage here, upon which they may dance. For the troops of Britain, like the locusts of Afric, have withered each tree upon this once happy island: and when they departed, left the inhabitants



bitants no shrubs, under whose shade, they might rest themselves in peace. But their industry begins to raise up some trees, to defend them from the summer sun; though at a great expence, as they have them all to buy. And they have need of them. For never did the lilly and the rose, call for more protection; than in this small island. Such complexions are here, as you can only in imagination form; for, you have never seen any thing like them. It is here, that the sensualist in beauty must come, to obtain a gratification of his wishes. It is here, that the painter must direct his course, to copy the greatest excellence of nature. Happy island! Happy in holding within your fond embrace, not the least perfect of American beauty. Let the winds howl over thy lands, too much unprotected from their merciless ravages. Let the sun pour down his most faturated rays, upon your not the less fertile glebe. Let the fogs, impervious even to the sight, hide occasionally the fruit which Pomona offers to your harvests. Still, wilt thou have this consolation; that here Venus arises from the  
 sea,

fea\*, to rejoice the wondering eyes of men. Here, she makes the feat of love; and here smiles away the inconveniencies of the day.

AFTER staying at Newport two days, I took my passage on board of a packet for Providence; where, I arrived in three hours and an half. And never in a worse time for observations as a traveller; it being insufferably hot: and the situation of the town rather encreasing it, than otherwise. It is situated on each shore of a narrow river, along the side of the hills down to the waters edge. Where, the summer breezes may blow over it in vain; serving only to tantalize the citizens, with what they cannot enjoy. It is however a flourishing town, and is the present seat of government: having a baptist church with one of the tallest and handfomest steeples in America. It is said to be two hundred and twenty feet high. The church is built of wood, and is elegantly finished in the  
inside:

N O T E.

\* Orta solo, suscepta solo, patre edita Cælo.      Aus.

inside : being illuminated at night by a superb glass chandelier. The church has been lately repaired and painted at the expence of a Miss B——n ; whose fortune furnished her with the means, while her inclination prompted her here to return a portion of those riches, which heaven had given her. And sweet must her feelings be, when she reflects on this good appropriation of what is of no value, but as it assists the pleasures of an honest and well-spent life.

EACH part of the town, is connected by a bridge thrown across the river, the whole width of the street. There are foot ways on each side of it, in which three persons may walk abreast : and the carriage way is wide enough for as many carriages to pass at one time. At night it is illuminated by three lamps on each side.

UPON an eminence within the town, and overlooking it, is an handsome and commodious

ous

ous brick college;\* where at present numbers of youth are educated. I had not time to go into it, or opportunities of making any particular enquiries respecting it.

THE town is said to contain six thousand inhabitants : four thousand less than Charleston. And yet it sends three or four ships to India in each year ! would to heaven, that we were as much advanced in commerce. In comparison with the trading towns of the northern and eastern states, pardon the expression when I say, those of the southern are but in leading strings. It is a melancholy truth, but nevertheless proper to be known ; because, the knowledge of a weakness is the first step towards the taking measures, for the encrease of our strength. But it may be said, do we not enjoy every sweet arising from agriculture ? Does it not afford the means of every enjoyment of life ? It affords that, which will obtain them ; but with an

N O T E.

\* Rhode-Island college.

an advance upon goods, which direct importation would save. And that advance not bringing an extra benefit to the merchant; while it lays on an extra expence, upon the planter. One of the best principles in government, is to favor agriculture as the first source of wealth. To favor commerce in such manner, as that while it be nourished by agriculture, it shall not throw unnecessary burdens upon it. If the southern states then, have riches and men to spare, why should not their vessels ride the ocean, making it subservient to their prosperity in as great a degree, as their northern neighbours? Does it require an iron bound soil, or northern latitude, to give birth to extensive commerce? Believe me, it does not. Nothing more is necessary than industry and enterprise, to enable them to draw treasures from the Indies, and commodities from all parts of the world. It is this, which when united with agriculture, will make Carolina truly independent, and place her in a situation enviable among nations.

FROM Providence to Boston is a journey of forty miles, and the travelling easy; owing to  
the

the conveniency of stage coaches. At the latter place I am arrived; where hospitality seems to be a national virtue. I have been here, since the second day of July, and have never dined at home but twice: and sometimes, have even breakfasted abroad.

I YESTERDAY dined with the select-men of the town, at Faneuil-hall; but shall defer informing you upon what occasion, until my next letter: this, I make no doubt being sufficiently tiresome. Therefore, shall take my leave at present, continuing my wishes for your health and happiness.

LETTER.



## L E T T E R VI.

*An account of the public schools at Boston. A descant upon the blessings which attend patriotism and religion when rightly enjoyed. A contrast between the state of information possessed by the inhabitants of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, and those of S. Carolina.*

*Boston, July 10, 1793.*

I MENTIONED in my last letter, that I dined with the select men of the town, on the 8th instant. It is my intention at present to inform you upon what occasion it was, and what were the occurrences of the day. You must then know, that I had been previously invited by them, to attend the visitation of their public schools on that day. Once, every year, they are visited in this public manner, besides, being attended at other times by a committee; and happy was it for me, that their visitation took place at that auspicious moment.

I



I enjoyed thereby a pleasure, which perhaps I may never receive again in this place.

It is to the honor of Boston, that its youth are almost entirely educated in a public manner; and at the public expence. For this purpose, a proportionate tax is laid upon the citizens sufficient to support schools: where, the poor as well as the rich, have an equal claim to the master's attention, and the benefit of the institution: without any additional expence\*. They are here offered by their natural, to their political parent, for the purpose of being educated; not, as may suit the whim of their relations, but, as may tend most to their country's good. To view these sources of knowledge, to encourage the exertions of the scholars, and to observe the attention of their

N O T E.

\* I HAVE been informed that the expences attending each school in Boston, exclusive of paper, ink and books, are,

Head master,	£.200 that money—	£.155	11	0	sterl.
Usher,	100	—	77	15	6
Firing	20 cords of wood				

their masters, was the end of our visitation. A cause, grateful to the feelings of every one who attended them. Never, never, were my feelings more excited, or my affections and pleasures more awakened, than upon this occasion. Often, did the tear, that witness of sensibility spread itself like lightning over mine eyes; and fain would I have indulged so sweet a pleasure: did it not betray a weakness, which, upon public occasions it were better to avoid. Wrapt up in extacy of thought, I forgot that I was young: my affection like that of a parent, embraced all the little ones before me; while my best wishes were offered up for their prosperity.

THE procession began at 3 o'clock, A. M. and consisted of the select men of the town, the lieutenant governor\*, and other public officers of the commonwealth: The vice-president  
of

N O T E.

\* THE governor was too ill to attend.

of the United States of America : the clergy : consuls of foreign powers ; respectable gentlemen of the town ; and strangers who had been invited : making I suppose near one hundred in number. Our visits were scarcely finished by 3 o'clock P. M. for we went to seven different schools.—Six, for the attainment of useful American knowledge ; and the seventh, for that of the classics.

THE school rooms are built at the public expence ; large enough to accommodate two hundred scholars ; and are oblong. The seats are disposed along the length of the room, five rows deep on each side ; rising one above another, and leaving a passage way in the middle. Each bench is capable of accommodating five scholars : hence, with a glance of the eye, one may make a tolerably good guess, at the number which may be present. There are generally two of these rooms under the same roof ; one below, and the other, above stairs. The one in the first floor, is for the education of girls ; and the upper one, is for that of boys. Be  
not

not surprized, at my mentioning that girls are educated in this public manner. It is the pride of the citizens, that it is so done. They glory in that principle of equality, which directs them here to place their daughters. They reflect with sweet satisfaction, that here, their youth are trained up to industry, and social affection: and are persuaded that when they grow up, they will never forget those early obligations, received from the fostering hands of their country. Sweet school for every public virtue!—It was thus, that Greece sowed those seeds of patriotism, which long made her shine unrivalled, in the history of nations. The acquisition of improvement was encouraged, by presenting premiums and conferring honorary distinctions upon those who excelled. To gain a prize in the Olympic, Nemean, or Isthmian games, was what not only individuals, but kings contended for; and upon him in whose favor the decree was given, not only honor was conferred, but his whole family partook of the glory\*.

AND

N            ●            T            E.

\* *Porr. Antiq.* Vol. 1st, page 440.

AND should I be allowed to hazard an opinion respecting American education, I would say, let the youth grow up amidst annual festivals, commemorative of the events of the American war; and sacred to the memory of the worthies, who were sharers of its troubles, and have left the stage of life. “ Let them learn to weep over their tombs: to bless, and to imitate their virtues. Let them know, what having thus learned, they never can forget; that the pride of a free man braves all dangers; *but never disturbs the public order*;\* that human blood ought to be lavished for liberty, but ought to flow for no other cause: that war is horrible, if it be unnecessary: that it is the reproach of the mercenary, who sells his life for gold, or for the detestable honor of cool barbarity: but that it consigns to immortality the patriot hero who devotes his life for his

N O T E.

\* IN tranquillo, tempestatem adversam optare, dementis est. Cic.

“ his country\*.” When education hath enlight-  
 ened their minds, and this amor patriæ hath  
 been fully imprinted on their hearts, then, and  
 not until then, may those whose circumstances  
 permit, visit foreign countries. Their connex-  
 ions, will by that time be formed; and foreign  
 prejudices will not be likely to affect their judg-  
 ments. Departing, not ignorant of their coun-  
 try’s interests, they will be prepared by just  
 contrasts of manners, government and poli-  
 tics, to render it services at their return, and to  
 heap honors upon themselves.

CHILDREN are not admissible into the pub-  
 lic schools at Boston, until seven years old :  
 and they are there educated, the girls until  
 they be twelve, and the boys until they arrive  
 at the age of fourteen. At which time, the  
 poor boys are sufficiently acquainted with the  
 necessary parts of education, to be put out to  
 some trade; while the girls, can follow pursuits  
 becoming their different stations in life.

N O T E.

\* DELICE, et decorum est, pro patria mori.

LIBOR.

THE schools for the girls, are entirely under the directions of masters ; and if I be not mistaken, under those who have graduated at some college. They are here by just degrees instructed in all the solid parts of an American education, becoming their sex. I heard the dialogue between Syphax and Juba in the tragedy of Cato, read by several of them in the different schools ; with a propriety and elegance commanding my greatest admiration. Poetry and prose, equally call their attention. Whether to follow Pope in his moral essays on man, or to converse with each other, in the instructive reading of dialogues, they exhibited a proficiency, which in girls between seven and twelve years of age was surprising. Writing and arithmetic, claim also a portion of their time. And a knowledge of grammar, early impressed upon their minds, directs them to a proper use of their own language.

THE boys were examined in grammar, arithmetic, and geography ; much to their honor and my gratification. They are instructed in



an accurate knowledge of their own country, as well as in the grand outlines of the United States : and I believe are made acquainted with navigation, and surveying. They excell in beautiful writing. I have some pieces of their performance in that way, which were presented to me; and I hope they will be grateful to you at my return. When any boy discovers a brightness of abilities, and desire of literary knowledge, he is removed to the Latin and Greek school; from whence, if he continue to merit the good opinion of his parents, he at a proper time is advanced to Cambridge college. There, to receive an education, still at the public expence, as far as relates to tuition. Thus we find, that the paths of knowledge are equally open here to the poor, as well as to the rich. Merit, like a beautiful flower, claims attention wherever found; is led through all the mazes of early life, to burst forth in full bloom, and to spread its beauties upon the great carpet of nature.

ONE part of the necessary education which the children receive, is in the particular care  
paid

paid to the pronunciation of their language. That the schools in America generally teach the pronunciation, is true; but I have never known any to expose the faults of pronunciation, in so forcible a manner as those, which are the subject of the present letter. The masters have for this purpose, selected, by way of illustration, a number of words generally miscalled; with which the children are instructed to be well acquainted. They are examined upon them, from time to time, and are taught to pronounce the word first in its proper way, and then to contrast it with the mode in which it is miscalled. As for example,

Boil,	is called Boil,	and not	<i>Bile.</i>
Could,	Cou'd,		<i>Could.</i>
Cucumber,	Cucumber,		<i>Cowcumber.</i>
Certain,	Certain,		<i>Sartin.</i>
Merchant,	Merchant,		<i>Marchant.</i>
Molasses,	Molasses,		<i>Lasses.</i>
Onions,	Onions,		<i>Inions.</i>
Oil,	Oil,		<i>Ile.</i>
Point,	Point,		<i>Pint.</i>
Steady,	Steady,		<i>Study.</i>
It is by such means as these, which although simple			

simple in themselves, yet by the forcible light in which the understanding is thereby struck, fires in the memory of youth a just pronunciation of their language: which, in all probability will ever afterwards attend them through life. We should not only be acquainted with the smooth seas, but should know where Scylla and Charybdis lie, that we may avoid them. For depend upon this truth, that although it be a good thing to know the proprieties of life, yet, it is also useful to be so much acquainted with the improprieties of that station, as to enable us by a just contrast, and firm conviction, to embrace the one, while we reject the other.

FROM the examination of the English schools we passed to that of the Latin, and Greek; consisting of about fifty scholars. Before the examination began, a salutatory oration in Latin, was delivered by a young gentleman of the senior class. After which, an examination took place, upon the Latin and Greek grammars, Clarke's introduction, Virgil, Horace and Homer. Then, a dialogue in Latin, was deli-

H vered

vered by the senior class. After which a valedictory oration in English was pronounced by one of that class, who bids fair to rise in literature. He is the son of a blacksmith, educated at the public expence: and deservedly rising, from meriting the favor of his countrymen\*. May he continue to do so. And never abuse the confidence of his fellow citizens, which from time to time he may enjoy.

THE number of children which we saw at the different schools, inclusively amounted to eleven hundred. I am informed, that there are about fourteen hundred educated at the public expence in this place. Many of them are children of genteel families; but by far the greater part, are poor children.

THE examination at every school, ended with an *exhortation*, and a prayer; delivered by two gentlemen

N O T E.

\* I understood that in consideration of his talents, the select-men had presented him with a small annuity; to continue during his collegiate term of education.

Gentlemen of the clergy successively. How great an influence these had upon the hearers, is not for me to say. But for myself, I enjoyed a pleasure of devotion and patriotism, which cannot be described. Sweet assemblage of two of the greatest blessings to man, when rightly enjoyed! But when abused, the greatest curse which can befall him.

How often, have those springs of action, misused, swept, as with a broom of destruction, nations from the face of the earth? At this moment, Europe is shaken, and deluged with blood flowing from the opposition of passions unrestrained, and pointed with all the severity of malice, and revenge. Devoted to this frightful amalgam, see how St. Domingo is torn with every scourge of war. Peace, has long fled from it: Agriculture and commerce, are crippled to an extreme. Social liberty, although the cause of her misfortunes can scarcely find a resting place for her feet upon that once happy, but now miserable island. While at one stroke, her capital is burnt: and hundreds

dreds of her inhabitants sent bleeding into eternity——Well, may the philanthropist weep over this tragic scene: pointed, by the civil commissioners Polverel, and Santhonax\*. They survive in the town: the first among *slaves*; rather than to be on a footing *with the freemen, who alone had a right to send them there.* But peace, plenty, and happiness, crown our land, thanks to propitious Heaven. Long, long, may her sons, just to their own, and others rights, deserve and enjoy this blessing. And when the virtuous and the unfortunate, are driven from all other parts of the world; here, let them find rest to their wearied limbs, and comfort, to their bleeding hearts.

Excuse this digression. An association of ideas, request sometimes an indulgence from a friend; however foreign they may immediately be, from the subject considered. But, to return to that of education. And in doing so, I will

N O T E.

\* SEE their proclamation of the 21st June, 1793, dated Cape-Francois.



will observe, that public ones, are not confined to the town of Boston alone ; they are extended throughout the commonwealth of Massachusetts. Equally careful of the morals, as well as of the education of youth ; religion and tuition, go hand in hand throughout its extent. The commonwealth is divided into townships, which are similar to our parishes, and counties ; and each township consisting of fifty house holders or upwards, is obliged to have and support a minister of the protestant religion, and a school master. And when they have one hundred families or house holders, they are obliged to have a grammar school for the acquisition of the languages : under a penalty recoverable at the court of quarter sessions, in case of default\*.

The

N O T E.

\* *The law respecting this subject, may be worth the reader's consideration ; it is as follows :*

Laws of Massachusetts Bay. 4th year of William and Mary. Chap. X. page 17.

*An Act, for the settlement and support of ministers and school-masters.*

Be it ordained, &c. that the inhabitants of each town within this province shall take due care from time to time,



The consequence is, that although in this country every body be not learned; yet nobody is ignorant, and few are idle. They are trained  
to

NOTE—CONTINUED.

to be constantly provided of an able, learned, orthodox minister, or ministers, of good conversation, to dispense the word of God to them: which minister or ministers shall be suitably encouraged, and sufficiently supported and maintained by the inhabitants of such town. And all contracts, agreements, and orders heretofore made, or that shall hereafter be made by the inhabitants of any town within this province, respecting their ministers or school masters, as to their settlement, or maintenance, shall remain good and valid, according to the true intent thereof, the whole time for which they were or shall be made in all the particulars thereof: and shall accordingly be pursued, put in execution and fulfilled. And when there is no contract and agreement, made in any town respecting the support and maintenance of the ministry: or when the same happens to be expired, and the inhabitants of such town shall neglect to make suitable provision therein: upon complaint thereof made unto the quarter sessions of the peace for the county where such town lies, the said court of quarter sessions shall and hereby are empowered to order a competent allowance unto such minister, according to the state and ability of such town: The same to be assessed upon the inhabitants by warrant from the court directed to the selectmen,

to habits of industry; and even make leisure subservient to good purposes. On Sundays, which are days of rest and refreshment, when  
 passing

NOTE—CONTINUED.

who are thereupon to proceed to make and proportion such assessment in manner as directed for other public charges; and to cause the same to be levied by the constables of each town by warrant under the hands of the select-men; or of the town clerk, by their order.

Be it further, &c. That where any town shall be destitute of a minister qualified as aforesaid, and shall so continue by the space of six months, not having taken due care for the procuring, settling, and encouragement of such minister, the same being made to appear upon complaint unto their majesties' justices at the general sessions of the peace for the county: the said court of quarter sessions shall and hereby are empowered to make, an order upon every such defective town, speedily to provide themselves of such ministers as aforesaid, by the next sessions at the farthest. And in case such order be not complied with, then the said court shall take effectual care to procure a minister qualified as aforesaid, and order the charge of such minister's maintenance to be levied on the inhabitants of the town.

And it is further, &c. That the respective churches in the several towns within this province, shall at all times hereafter, use, exercise, and enjoy all their privileges and freedoms respecting divine service, church order, and discipline. And shall be encouraged in the peaceable and regular profession and practice thereof.

passing by the farmers' houses, I found many of them reading : and upon enquiry was told, that

NOTE—CONCLUDED.

And be it further, &c. That every town within this province having the number of fifty house-holders or upwards, shall be constantly provided of a school master to teach children and youth, to read and write. And where any town or towns have the number of one hundred families or house-holders, there shall also be a grammar school set up in every such town ; and some discreet person of good conversation, well instructed in the tongues procured to keep such school. Every such school-master to be suitably encouraged, and paid by the inhabitants.

And the select men, and the inhabitants of such town respectively, shall take effectual care, to make due provision for the settlement and maintenance of such school-master and masters.

And if any town, qualified as before expressed, shall neglect the due observance of this act, for the procuring and settling of any such school-master as aforesaid, by the space of one year : every such defective town shall incur the penalty of ten pounds, for every conviction of such neglect : upon complaint made to their majesties' justices in quarter sessions, for the same county in which such defective town lieth ; which penalty shall be towards the support of such school or schools within the same county, where there may be most need, at the discretion of the justices in quarter sessions : to be levied by warrant from the said court of sessions, in proportion, upon the inhabitants of such defective town, as other public charges and to be paid unto the county treasurer.

that they generally devote those days to reading religious books, the public laws, and the newspapers\*. Do you think it an easy matter to enslave such a people? or to abuse public trusts with impunity? Whoever does, must be as much misled, as were the British ministry; who under God's blessing, were the mean of breaking our subjection to Great-Britain.

WITH such inhabitants, a country is really strong. Taught to know their own rights, they are indignant of injury: and are ever on the watch, to detect mal-administration in government. Property, reputation, and life, are safe in a country like this: for none but well informed juries can give judgment respecting them. Not such as you, and I, have seen—None of whom could write; and the foreman barely able to set his mark to a *general verdict*. I blush, for the situation of *those*, which has enabled

N O T E.

\* It is supposed that at least thirty thousand Newspapers are circulated each week throughout the New-England states.

MORSE.

enabled me to say this. But it is too true. And that it may speedily change for the better; that *they* may become more industrious, and better informed; that both religion and education may walk the round in Carolina, producing as happy effects as they have done in Massachusetts; is the sincere wish of your affectionate friend.

LETTER

## L E T T E R VII.

*Arrival at Portsmouth, in the State of New-Hampshire. A description of the town. Recommended as an agreeable abode, during the summer months. A fowling and fishing party. A conversation respecting the connexion between the Southern and Eastern States. Mention made of Dartmouth College, and a linen and cambrick manufactory. A similar one recommended to be established at Winstborough in the State of South-Carolina. Account of the road between Boston and Portsmouth: leading to a description of a bridge over the Merrimack River.*

*Portsmouth, July 29, 1793.*

I HAVE been here since last Monday, and shall return to-morrow to Boston. What a contrast do I experience in being at the latter place, and at this. There, a continued clatter is kept up throughout the day, by carriages rolling upon the paved streets: here, a calm, and quiet reigns, inviting one to every mental gratification.

gratification. At this moment, while I am writing, do I enjoy the music of two hemp birds : undisturbed by a noisy town. At one time, they seem to hold converse with each other ; at another time, they seem to strive which can sing loudest, and with the greatest variety of notes. How much like two friends travelling together in the path of human life. Alternately, enjoying the sweets of friendship ; or, following the impulse of a well directed ambition.

THIS, though a small town, contains about five thousand inhabitants. Its streets are not paved, except occasionally on the sides. Its harbour, is one of the best in the United States : for although not large, yet it can boast of a great depth of water. Ships of any burden, may lie at its wharves, protected from wind by the best land-locked harbour, which I have seen. The town is retired about a league from the sea, and is situated upon Piscataqua River ; which may be more than a quarter of a mile wide. And from its occasional windings among  
the



the heights, and the extreme force of the tide, running at the rate of seven knots an hour, and forming very strong eddies, becomes extremely difficult of access to a belligerent fleet. In so much, that although many of the British ships during the American war were occasionally at the mouth of the river; yet, none of them dared attempt the passage to the town. The tide here rises about fifteen feet, which is the cause of the great velocity with which it runs. And its quickness, why it is never frozen up in winter: which gives an evident advantage over some ports in the northern and eastern states of America.

THE harbour, is quite destitute of shipping at present; there being not more, than three or four sail in it. All their vessels and sailors being engaged at this time either on freight, or in the fishing trade. Thirty sail have been invited from hence southwardly, by the high freights given in consequence of the present European war. And this vast demand which is at present for shipping, is one reason, why there

there reigns here, so great a calm ; and why such a vast number of women are seen, entirely disproportionate to the men.

AT this place during our struggle for independence, a seventy-four gun ship called ‘ *The America*,’ was built ; and presented by Congress to the king of France. She is now in the French navy : and has been lately in active service in the West-Indies. For the building of this ship, the public were indebted to the spirited exertions of Mr. John Langdon\* ; whose unceasing perseverance overcame difficulties, which entirely frustrated the attempts of others, in similar cases.

HERE, blessed with a fine summer climate, one may enjoy a social retirement ; very similar to that of a country life. A genteel house, with

N O T E.

\* Now a senator from the state of N. Hampshire, in the Congress of the United States.

with a garden, carriage house and appurtenances may be had at the rate of thirty pounds sterling per annum. A large fresh cod-fish capable of dining four or five persons, may be bought for as many coppers. A fat turkey for a quarter dollar, and meats upon as cheap a scale. Indeed, I have never met with a place, where so many circumstances combined to form an agreeable retreat. Should fishing, or fowling sometimes be an object of recreation, by going to the mouth of the river, one is furnished with both. The other day, I went down to an island with a fowling party; and by just standing upon one spot, and shooting at pigeons as they flew over our heads, we killed many dozen. Sometimes, I would descend from the hill upon which I was placed, into the valley; in order to see some men catch pigeons with a spring net. This is very amusing; and equally successful. I will endeavor to describe to you the manner, by which they are taken.

Two or three men, after having provided themselves with a proper net, two or three flutter

ter pigeons, and one or two fliers, arrive at the proper ground before day: where, they prepare for action. For this purpose, they first erect a small skreen of bushes in a circular form. Then, they set the net: which by lines communicates to the skreen. They then place under the sweep of the net, but upon the ground, the flutter pigeons; (so called from being fixed to a flutter stick, which by reason of a string communicating to the skreen, they raise up and down, when the pigeons are flying over) and have the flier pigeon ready on a roost, tied to the skreen by a long string: the eyes of all these decoy pigeons, being first sewed up. As soon as the men perceive a flock of pigeons coming over, they immediately throw up the flier: which flies to the extent of the string, and then falls down. This, draws the attention of the pigeons, and they immediately light within the sweep of the net; enticed there, by the decoy flutter pigeons. The spring line is then drawn; and they are covered with the net. And in this way, as many as thirty dozen have been caught at once.

AFTER



' shipping ; the other, a quantity of produce.  
 ' Hence, they are mutually dependent ; the one,  
 ' for ships : and the other, for freight. Parti-  
 ' cularly at this time, when, owing to the pre-  
 ' sent European war, American vessels enjoy  
 ' much of the carrying trade. We are in a si-  
 ' tuation, which enables us to build ships cheap-  
 ' er, than can be done in the southern states.  
 ' And is it then an object of no importance to  
 ' be on a friendly footing with a country capa-  
 ' ble of supplying a want of vessels, at a short  
 ' notice, and upon reasonable terms ? Is it an ob-  
 ' ject of no importance, to be careless about  
 ' the produce of a country, which gives life  
 ' and spirit to navigation ? Or, can the interests  
 ' of the southern states in that particular suffer ;  
 ' without materially injuring those of the east-  
 ' ern ?"—He spoke truth. Try the probable  
 actions of men in all ages, by this test ; and  
 one can draw a just conclusion.

THEY have schools in this state similar to  
 those in Massachusetts ; and also a college\*,

N O T E.

\* Dartmouth College.

situated

situated on Connecticut river ; at the extreme interior part of the state : which, is now rising into respectability.

AT Londonderry, a town retired about forty miles from the sea, is a tolerably extensive linen and cambrick manufactory ; where much of those stuffs are made : and of a tolerable fineness. For this, they are indebted to some Irish who settled it : and who, wherever they go, generally carry this useful knowledge with them. Why, cannot we have such a manufactory at Winstborough ? Its lands are suited to the culture of flax ; and its country peopled by a vast number of Irish inhabitants. Let but some person of enterprize and fortune, assist the attempt ; and I am deceived, if the farmers thereabouts, will not find it more to their advantage, than their present pursuits in agriculture. By this mean, their strength will be called forth : and even their children when a little advanced in years, will afford them an astonishing assistance. While, exclusive of the flax for the manufactory, their annual income in money,

will

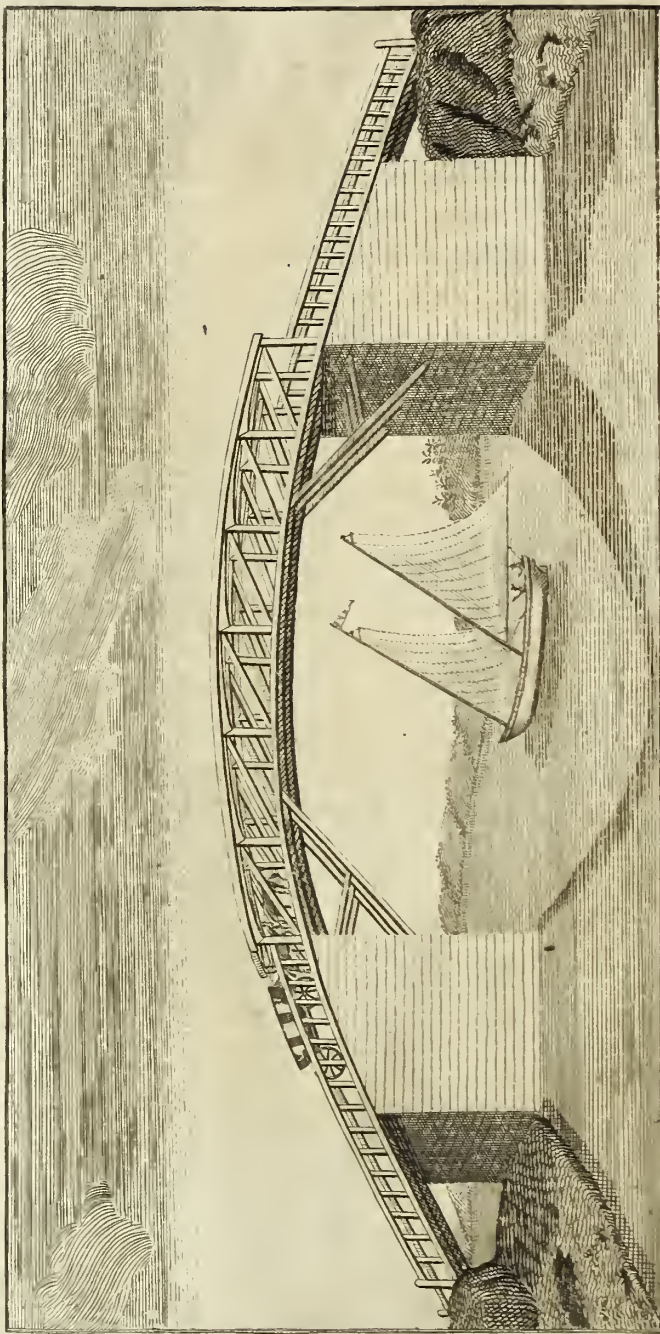


will be encreased by the sale of the seed. Need I say that the community at large, would be thereby benefited? No one who has ever indulged a thought respecting exportation, and manufactures, can do otherwise than approve the encreasing of both the one, and the other.

THE whole way from Boston to Portsmouth, is a thickly populated, and well cultivated country: the road is perhaps one of the finest in the United States. You pass from farm to farm, from village to village, and from town to town, in quick succession. Some few miles from Boston is a small village called Lynn; celebrated for the vast quantities of shoes made there for exportation. The shoe-makers shops, are almost equal to the number of dwelling houses in the town. The road leads through the town of Salem, Beverly, and Newbury-port: which, for riches and commerce, have a right to be considered as some of the most respectable towns in America.

Two or three miles beyond Newbury-port,  
is





A. Bridge over the Merrimack River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

is a beautiful wooden bridge of one arch, thrown across the Merrimack river: whose length, is one hundred and sixty feet; and whose height, is forty feet above the level of high water. For beauty and strength, it has certainly no equal in America: and I doubt whether as a wooden bridge, there be any to compare with it elsewhere. The strength of the bridge is much increased above the common mode in use, by pieces of timber placed upon it, and shouldered into each other. They run upon the bridge, in three lines; parrallel with the length of the bridge, and with each other; so as to make two distinct passage-ways for carriages. These braces, are some feet in height, and are connected on the top by cross pieces. affording sufficient room for carriages to pass underneath, without inconvenience. It is said, that the upper work has as great a tendency to support the weight of the bridge; as the sleepers, upon which it is built. I had not time to stay there longer than five minutes; so must be excused in a sketch which I have taken of it: and that was not done upon the spot, but only by recollection. If in so doing, I should persuade others to enquire.

quire more particularly respecting it ; and to adopt what may be good in its mechanism ; my object will be gratified. The river, over which it is built, is subject to freshes : it is therefore high from the general current of the water : and as being proper for that, I apprehend would not be unsuitable to similar rivers in Carolina.

L E T T E R

## L E T T E R    V I I I .

*Account of the Humane Society at Boston, for the relief of ship-wrecked persons. The Society visit the huts upon the islands. Character of the clergy. A description of Castle-William. Convicts sent there, to labor: not benefiting their morals. Description of Boston. Taxes. Hackney coaches. Trades and manufactures. The Mall. The Column. The town of Cambridge, and Harvard College. The two bridges over Charles-River.*

*Boston, August 4, 1793.*

**I** DOUBT whether there be any country, where the wants of the unfortunate are more respected, than in the commonwealth of Massachusetts. Her fostering hand leads the youth into life; and is afterwards ready to be extended, when any unfortunate emergency may offer. Of their institutions for the relief of misfortune, there is none which affords me more satisfaction than one for the assistance of ship-wrecked people;



ple; called the Humane Society. It is formed by some of the most respectable men of the town, as well clergy, as laity. From whose fund, small huts are built upon the islands most exposed to ship-wreck, for the relief of those, whose good fortune may bring them to land, escaped from the dangers of the sea.

THESE huts, are generally placed upon uninhabited islands: and are furnished with blankets, wood, tinder-box, candles, salt provisions, biscuit, and such other things, which although not the luxuries, are yet the necessaries of life. They are visited once every year, by the society, and such gentlemen as they may choose to invite: for the purpose of seeing whether the hut, and necessaries placed in them, are in good order. It was my good fortune to be of the party, which went down the harbour upon that occasion. We were in number about forty; and sailed in a packet, attended by a handsome twelve oared barge. Such is the respect paid to this society by the government, that upon these occasions it is always honored  
by



by a federal salute of cannon, from the castle; as well when going, as when returning. This we had the pleasure of receiving; in addition to the sweet approbation of an honest heart, and well directed pursuit. And believe me, when I consider it as one of the most rational days, passed since I left you. I am informed that these huts have already been the means of saving to the commonwealth, the lives of many of its citizens: while the society judiciously distributes rewards to those, whose exertions have served the distressed.

It was upon this occasion, that I became acquainted with some of the most respectable clergymen of the town. Men, whose liberality of sentiment, and respectability of manners won my esteem. I have ever drawn near when opportunities allowed, to men of erudition; and particularly to those cloathed in the garment of religion. And when I found them pleased to discourse upon subjects which might afford me information, I lost not the opportunity of attending to them. It was my happiness to be

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thus

thus situated. Instead of exhibiting countenances, which seemed to frown over the vanities, and even amusements of life; and to despise every thing, which wore not the forbidding and self-denying aspect of puritanical religion; they appeared gentle in manners, and social in company: without descending from that dignity of deportment, in which their calling directs them to move. It is with such monitors, such companions as these, that I would gather the flowers of religion: and that I would pass through the meads of life, with grateful thanks to a bountiful God. While the fanatic shall weep through the misfortunes of life, let me, conscious that the smiles of creation are more acceptable to heaven than its tears, offer up my thanks with a grateful, but not the less smiling adoration. Satisfied, that as the fields enameled with flowers, afford more pleasure, than when they are covered with snow; so a cheerful, and contented mind, is best suited for the thanks, which either the illiterate or learned can pay.

I DID not omit paying a visit to Castle-William. It is situated in the harbour of Boston, a league

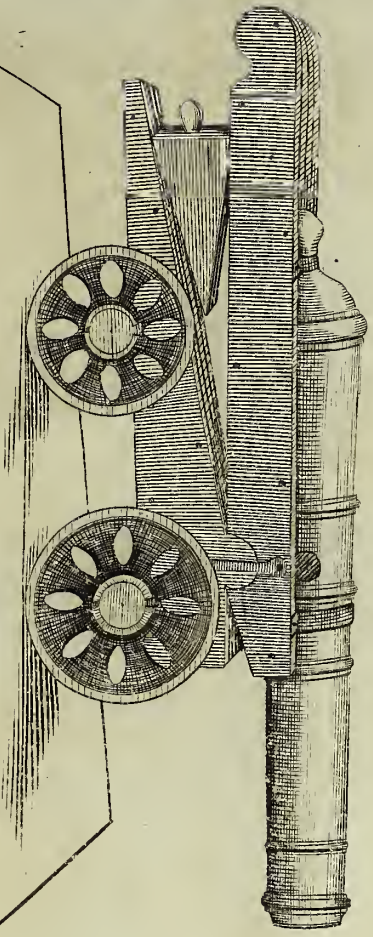
a league below the town : upon an island containing about thirty acres of land. There is a beautiful archipelago of islands in this harbour, in number, amounting to about forty : all of which, have high grounds upon them. Upon the height of one of these islands, the castle is placed. In some parts of it, there is a stone foundation ; but in others, the height of the land is only assisted with ramparts, and merlons of turf. I am informed it was formerly furnished with three tier of cannon. The first consisting of heavy ones, placed at the waters edge : and the other two upon platforms at the embrasures. But now, they are placed upon the middle battery, except thirteen small ones, which being round the flag-staff en barbette, serve for the purpose of saluting. The castle is very much out of order at present ; the platforms and carriages for guns, being much injured by the weather. However, even in its present situation it is very respectable : and is well provided with mortars, cannon, bombs, ball, and double-headed shot. From its near situation to the channel, its guns can shoot with much effect, upon vessels passing to, or from  
the

the town. Here, I saw an eighteen pounder, which the British had disabled of its trunnions, re-mounted and fit for service, upon a carriage, invented for that particular purpose. It is made of white oak, and is said to answer very well.

THERE are now within the castle, barracks equal to the lodgement of a thousand men: besides many buildings upon the island, without its gates. The ground within the earth, is intersected at proper distances by covered ways: and the magazine is protected from accidents. Here, are now mounted about thirty pieces of heavy cannon, besides some smaller ones. It is garrisoned by a company of infantry upon pay, at the expence of the commonwealth: who also guard the convicts here sent, convicted of crimes deserving punishment less than death. They are condemned to labour for a certain term of years, or for life: of whom, seventy are now on the island, chiefly employed in the nail manufactory.

I WENT into the blacksmiths shop, which is a  
long

*A Cannon disbled of its hummions & mounted on a carriage invented for that purpose*





long building, with several forges in it; but, I assure you I was soon glad to leave it: for never was I attacked by such a set of importunate sturdy beggars in my life. I had no opportunity of making any observations, or asking any questions; so incessantly did their shameless demands wring in mine ears. I hastened from a place, where I saw there was nothing to be gained; and much, to be lost. For, although it be a pleasure to me in reflecting, that I have never in my life withholden assistance from the unfortunate; yet it is also my satisfaction to avoid throwing it away upon the undeserving. In the midst of such a confusion of tongues, of entreaties, and of oaths; it was impossible to make any discrimination. While some were begging, others, were as earnest, that nothing should be given them: charging them with being unworthy of charity—Disgusted at the scene, I left them to the punishment which their crimes had deservedly brought down, upon their heads.

THIS, is the effect of the humane laws of this country; punishing few crimes with death.

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One would imagine that Mr. Howard's plan of punishment, were the original, from whence they were copied; so much, do they coincide with it. " I would wish (says he) that no persons might suffer capitally, but for *murder*, " for *setting houses on fire*, for *house breaking*, " *attended with acts of cruelty*. The highway- " man—the foot-pad—the habitual thief, and " people of this clan : should end their days in " a penitentiary house, rather than on the " gallows." \*

THE manner in which the convicts are kept at the castle, may be politically right : but, it certainly is morally wrong. For placed in this public manner to an ignominious slavery, under no controul but that necessary for their immediate safety ; they become callous to every principle of shame : while their greatest pleasure is to boast of the feats they have performed ;  
claiming

N O T E.

Howard's State of Prisons, p. 42.

claiming pre-eminence among their fellow sufferers in proportion to the rascality of their former lives. I know a gentleman of this town, whose house was robbed at mid-day of seventy guineas, by one of these fellows: and being some time afterwards at the castle he was accosted by the fellow, and asked, “ Whether he had ever known who had stolen the money?” Upon the gentleman’s answering in the negative, he said “ He had done it:” and then related with much satisfaction the manner in which he had performed so gallant an action. Can these men, ever be of service to society again? Can principles of honor, shame or fear, ever restrain within proper bounds their licentious actions? Reason, seems to revolt at the idea. They are published to the world as villains, know themselves as such: and are even ambitious of deserving the character.

THEY cannot then be placed here to benefit their morals, and recall them back to a virtuous life: for it is evident, their situation has a contrary tendency. The old, here glory in their villainy;

villainy; and the young, in being mixed with them, are only sent to be instructed in vice. It must therefore be justified upon policy; and that can only properly relate to those, who are condemned to be there for life. They must be considered as having forfeited all claims of protection from society; which, should be screened from their further depredations. Not, by inflicting death: for as I have said before, their laws do not require it. But by confining them from opportunities of doing farther mischief; and making that confinement beneficial to the community, which, they have injured.

A STRANGER at Boston, soon remarks the industry of its inhabitants; and their attention to business. While, he laments that so noted a town in the page of history, were not regulated by a better police. It is under the controul of select-men, as indeed all the other towns of the commonwealth are: but their powers, are too much abridged by reason of their town meetings, to undertake any thing  
of

of efficiency, without having recourse to the opinions of a multifarious assembly. Few lamps assist the passenger through the streets by night, and if ever they were necessary in any place, they certainly are in this. For the streets are crooked, and narrow; paved from side to side with round stones, extremely disagreeable, and inconvenient to those who walk them: and for this reason, strangers are more apt to ride about this, than any other town on the continent. In many streets there are no railings or posts, to defend one from the carriages, which are incessantly traversing them. Carts, waggons, drays, trucks, wheel-barrow, and porters, are continually obstructing the passage in these streets: While, the people concerned in this kind of business, are not apt to put themselves out of the way, for the pleasure of conferring favors. They seem so conscious that all men are equal, that they take a pride in shewing their knowledge of this principle upon every occasion, *without adverting to its use*. I have seen a porter with a little hand cart pursuing his destination in the street, with the utmost unconcern; at the risk of being crippled, or having his cart

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crushed

crushed to pieces by a carriage which was thundering in his ears. And having escaped misfortune, he reviled the coachman, and asked him if he did not see him? The same question might have been retorted in answer, with the addition of ‘did not you hear me?’ Nothing, but the most fullen and unaccommodating disposition, could have hindered him from giving way to a carriage; which could turn aside less easily, than he might have done.

THERE cannot be a greater nuisance in any town, and particularly in this, than the allowance of hucksters, to occupy part of the streets, during the day. Either the overseers of the markets and streets, are not invested with sufficient powers to remedy the evil; or some reason, of which, I am uninformed, forbids their putting them in force. One would imagine, that with such heavy taxes as the Bostonians labour under, much more, might be done for their convenience. It may truly be said, that they are taxed, not by what they are worth: but by what their appearances in life are.

Hence,

Hence, the reason, why some monied men among them, make no show; and are without noise continually amassing wealth, and confining it within their immediate grasp, to the disadvantage of the society at large. While others of more generous dispositions, are called upon to pay a much larger tax, than they should in justice do. The taxes are imposed by assessors upon their estate, stock in trade, and in the funds: and unless the citizens prove to their satisfaction, that they do not possess a fortune equal to their assessment, they are obliged to pay the tax. This publication they are unwilling to make, particularly mercantile men: who deem it improper that persons might thus be informed of their private circumstances. Hence, some respectable and rich citizens have left the town: an example, which may be followed by others, should this system of taxation not be altered.

No place in America is perhaps equal to Boston, for excellent hackney coaches. From nine o'clock in the morning, to the same hour in the evening,

evening, they are on the stand in State-street; and are ready at a moment's warning.

ALL kinds of trades, flourish in this industrious place. Among their manufactures, there are none more worthy of being noticed, than that of glass, wool-cards, sail-duck, and fishing-hooks. The machines for the making of the wool-cards, is extremely ingenious: and said to be invented by an inhabitant of the town. It is supposed to be superior to any thing of the kind in Europe. Every piece of the wooden work, is fashioned out by a particular machine; so that the utmost uniformity is observable among the different parts of the wooden work. The wires, are cut and bent, at the same time; which is considered as a great and expeditious improvement. The duck manufactory carries on a vast deal of business; and supplies much of the shipping with sails. It employs three hundred and sixty persons; seventy of whom are girls: and works twenty-seven looms. The importation of sail cloth has been greatly reduced, since this manufac-  
ture



ture has been established ; in so much, that a gentleman who had been in the habit of annually importing four thousand pieces of sail cloth from Russia, informed me, he now only imports two thousand, from that place.

EXCLUSIVE of the pleasure arising, from seeing the prosperity of individuals, a satisfaction is enjoyed, when viewing these public benefits. They, should ever be encouraged by the public favor, as being intimately connected with a country's independence. It is time, that we should begin to throw off the shackles, of a too long monopolized commerce. The United States, within their embrace hold every thing, which the necessaries of mankind, or even some of their luxuries demand. They only wait to be brought forth, by proper means. It is their policy, to encrease the articles of exportation ; and to reduce those of importation. Thus, the balance of trade will be in their favor ; and that not in goods, but in money.

It is not the statesman, who supinely passing life away, and barely leading forth adventitious sources of aggrandizement to a state, that deserves its praise. It is he, whose daring and penetrating spirit, o'erleaps the bounds of opposition: that merits the plaudits of his countrymen. It is to the exertions of such men, that countries may arise to that knowledge, strength, and importance in a short time; which, in the common course of things, must wait for the return of centuries to obtain. Happy for America, should such men come forward in her service. Still happier, should party spirit, or low minded jealousy, not check or embarrass their patriotic exertions.

THERE is a public walk in Boston, called the mall: which is very agreeable. It is upwards of half a mile long, and offers to your choice both a gravel, and a turf walk; shaded by beautiful elm trees. A street runs parallel with it on one side; and on the other a large common: where hundreds of cattle feed during the day. This common on the further side,  
rises

rises up to a considerable height. At one end of the walk is a prospect of a large basin of water, Roxbury town, and Charles river: at the other, the town of Boston, and column upon Beacon hill.

THIS column has been lately erected, in commemoration of remarkable events which took place, during the American war: and in honor of its present efficient government. It is about sixty feet high: crowned on the top with a golden eagle standing upon a globe, and overlooking the arms of the United States. This spot, is the highest elevation about Boston. From it, may be seen over the tops of all the houses, the islands in the harbour, the light house, many leagues at sea, and a vast distance into the country. Bunker's hill, here heaves into view. It was there, that Americans perceived their own strength; and that British hirelings exposed their own weakness. It is now, in fields of agriculture. How different to what it was, when messengers of death, were hurled over its land! Well, are Americans admonished

monished from an inscription on the base of the column; that while the prospects of agriculture and commerce present themselves to the sight, where, war was accustomed to found the discordant clarion; they should not be forgetful of those, who were assisting to their now happy situation. Who, taught them their rights; and learned them, how they were to be defended.

FROM hence, is seen the town of Cambridge, at three miles distance. Celebrated as being the place, where General Washington took the command of the continental army \*, and also for the institution of Harvard college: provided with the best appointment of philosophical apparatus that I have met with. Among which is a complete and elegant orrery, constructed by Mr. Pope; without his ever having seen one. The college, is furnished with a library of  
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\* Ramsay's Amc. Rev. Vol. I. p. 220.

of fourteen thousand volumes, selected with learning and taste: and affording an ample fund both of antient, and modern information.

HERE, if a young man will but pursue the intent of his destination; much knowledge may be acquired in the course of three or four years: The college being under the direction of a president and professors of learning and integrity, leads him to every avenue of improvement; while the expence which is not more than two hundred pounds sterling, throws in his way, no unnecessary obstacle. The number of students at this college are from one hundred and fifty to two hundred. On the second Wednesday in July, they receive degrees. This day, is the most brilliant in the calendar of the commonwealth; being made so, by the policy of government for the encouragement of education. The public officers, the civil, the military, and the religious, all join upon this great occasion to form a procession in honor of the day. I was at the commencement, and assisted sincerely

ly in offering up my best wishes for the prosperity of the institution : for the advancement of learning and morality within its walls, and the extension of its fame, through all the country round.

FROM this hill, also is seen the bridge over Charles river, connecting Boston with Charlestown : and another partly finished, opening a more easy communication with Cambridge. The first is about a quarter of a mile long ; the latter will be more than twice its length. They have each of them side ways, for foot passengers. are illuminated at night by lamps, and are built of wood : which, in all probability, will last long without repair ; as the worm does not bite in these northern latitudes. Would to Heaven that we were not visited by these plagues, to every nautical enterprize. But why should I repine ? Is not nature lavish with her bounties ? Though she does not strew all her different kinds of flowers over every part of the globe, yet there is scarcely the clime, where a bouquet  
may

may not be made up for the object of one's affections ; or where, happiness may not be obtained, when mankind are directed by industry and prudence.

*The shuddering tenant of the frigid zone  
 Boldly proclaims that happiest spot his own,  
 Extols the treasures of his stormy seas,  
 And his long night of revelry and ease ;  
 The naked savage, panting at the line,  
 Boasts of his golden sands, and palmy wine,  
 Basks in the glare, or stems the tepid wave,  
 And thanks his Gods, for all the good they gave.  
 Nor less the patriot's boast where'er we roam,  
 His first, best country, ever is, at home.*

*And yet perhaps, if countries we compare,  
 And estimate the blessings which they share ;  
 Though patriots flatter, still shall wisdom find  
 An equal portion dealt to all mankind ;  
 As different good, by art or nature given  
 To different nations, makes their blessings even.*

GOLDSMITH'S TRAVELLER.

L E T T E R



## L E T T E R IX.

*Journey from Boston, to New-Haven. Description of Springfield: where the federal arsenal for the Eastern States is kept. Description of Hartford, and Middletown. Of Durham: a triste sejour on Sundays for travellers. Description of New-Haven; and state of Yale college. Manufactures. Divorces obtained in Connecticut. The opinion which a traveller is likely to form in passing through the Eastern States.*

*New-York, August 31, 1793.*

I ARRIVED at this city on Thursday morning, having left Boston the Friday before. The greatest part of the way I came by land, in order to see a part of Connecticut state. Upon this route while travelling in the state of Massachusetts, we early the second morning, burst from an high sandy pine barren, upon the heights of Springfield. Here, the federal arsenal for the Eastern states is kept; consisting of  
several

several thousand stand of arms, and other military stores. At the time of Shay's rebellion, his party endeavoured to obtain possession of it. But here, his imaginary laurels, withered on his brow; and himself and hopes sunk into the shade of oblivion. The town is situated about seventy miles westward of Boston, in a thickly populated country upon Connecticut river. The view from these heights is pleasing; particularly as coming so suddenly to the sight. From them, the traveller looks down upon the town at their feet: sees farms scattered every where round the country: overlooks the river, and ends his prospect with the distant heights.

IMMEDIATELY below this, we crossed the river; being there about three hundred yards wide. It is the prettiest one in the Eastern states; running through Connecticut and Massachusetts, and losing itself in the states of New-Hampshire and Vermont: traversing in its course, a vast extent of country. Down this river much of the exports of the upper states are  
are

are carried to Connecticut: by which mean, her exports, are nominally greater, while those of Massachusetts and New-Hampshire are proportionably smaller. At the melting of the snows, the river comes down in all its majesty; rising about fifteen feet perpendicular: and overflowing the land on either side. The lands which are overflowed are called *intervale*, are used as meadows, and occasionally sown with hemp and grain. On each side of the river is a tolerable quantity of this land, extremely productive: and the up lands along the course of the river are also good, and of a clayey texture.

WE passed through Hartford in the course of the day, it is situated on Connecticut river, is a town of much prosperity and affluence; and contains many genteel buildings. Towards the evening we came in sight of Middletown, situated upon the same river. And never was I more mortified, than in the knowledge that I had neither time or ability, to sketch so complicated

plicated a scene; description can never equal it. Not only, because it can never be perfect; but also, on account of the necessary length of a description of prospect; which, by reason of its tediousness can never bring the collected idea of perspective full to the imagination. All, that can be imagined of a country situation, may be conceived of this. We saw it, from an height at the distance of three miles, just at the bend of the river: which led down to it, in a straight direction, and with a gentle current. It was just at the time, when the setting sun gilds with delightful brightness the spiry steeples; when

“————— it tips the mountains brow,

“The cottage roof, and glimmers o'er the vale;”

it was just at this time, that we saw it, contrasted with the beautiful shades of verdure, led on by the evening hours. The eye, with joy viewed the country round; and saw it rising in sweet luxuriance of autumnal dress, to a distance of many miles. Such, and much more, than I can describe, is the prospect about Middletown: which, not to have seen, would have been

been

been unpardonable in any person travelling through that country for pleasure, or information.

ON Saturday night, we arrived at Durham, a small village in Connecticut state; and twenty miles from New-Haven. A triste sojourn on Sundays for travellers, whose misfortune brings them there the evening before. Nothing could persuade the driver to carry us on to New-Haven on Sunday. It seems this reluctance to travel on that day, is in obedience to a law of the state; imposing a penalty upon those who do. This, is the only mark of bigotry, which I have met with in the eastern states: and that only in the state of Connecticut. I am informed that in some parts of it, the law is not enforced: however, I was sorry to find it would be enforced any where in the state, at this period of time. Liberality of sentiment is now so general in religions, throughout America; that I flatter myself the legislature of that state will soon repeal a law, which casts no honor upon  
the

the code of so respectable a community. At ten o'clock on Sunday, the landlord waited on my companion and myself, to ask us to meeting. You may imagine we did not accept his invitation. We were chagrined sufficiently, in thus being arrested on our journey; without still further subjecting ourselves to the mortification, of being publicly exposed to the view of a large congregation. However, to beguile the tedious hours, we requested some books; and he was condescending enough to favor us with some classical ones; (for it seems he was a scholar) among which, I was happy in finding an Horace: wherein, the *iter Brundisium*, and other pieces applicable to our then situation, in some measure made us amends for this encroachment on our liberty.

WE however arrived at New-Haven on Monday; from whence, I proposed to proceed to New-York by water. This town, and Hartford, are occasionally the seats of government of this state. It is situated at the head of a

bay, which opens into the found, running between Long-Island and the Main: and is an agreeable retreat, being quiet and airy. To Yale College in this town, many eminent characters in America owe their education. I am informed there are generally one hundred and fifty students at it. Their library is but small, having only 2,700 volumes in it: and those, principally antient. While their philosophical apparatus is on a confined scale, in contrast with those, of other American seminaries.

THIS town, is said to have been the retreat of three of the regicides of Charles the first— Their names were, lieutenant general Edward Whalley, major general William Goff, and colonel John Dixwell; who at the restoration in the year 1660 fled to America, and were sequestered in Massachusetts and Connecticut for near thirty years. They are said to have lived a part of that time in a cave, at West Rock; four miles from the town. Dixwell's tomb stone was shewn me, which, if I be not mistaken, mentions,



mentions him to be there buried in the year 1688; his name is not carved at length upon it, but only *J. D. Esquire*. It is much injured by the weather, and somewhat reduced in size by the attentions of English travellers and antiquaries, who break off pieces from it, to carry away with them. Mr. Styles, president of the college, has written their history; which will no doubt when published afford entertainment to the curious.

THERE are two metal button manufactories in this place; where, I saw them made with diligence, and dispatch; and by no means inferior to those of a similar kind imported from England.

IN this state, divorces may be obtained. It has been the policy of some countries, and of our own, not to allow them: as leading to a greater levity of conduct and unhappiness in the married state, when they can thus easily get  
rid.

rid of it ; than when, although separated from each other, they are interdicted from forming new connexions. But nature, place, and circumstances, have different influences: and what may be allowable in one country, may be improper in another.

THROUGHOUT the New-England states, the traveller is pleased in observing the decent and respectful attention which he meets with from the youth of both sexes. Wherever he goes, he will not be disappointed in receiving their salutes. They are attentive in the observance of this etiquette: which they learn in their public schools never to omit. Nothing can be more pleasingly offered to the mind, as a mark of the civilization of a people, than this mode; of early instructing their little ones in due principles of subordination, and respect to their elders. It becomes a source of real happiness, in private families; and as they advance in years, tends to make them citizens obedient to the laws of their country. They have many things

to make them so, and nothing more than the freedom and impartiality with which members for the different legislatures are elected. To canvass for votes, is effectually to crush the expectations of a candidate. Hence, men are elected whose characters lead them to the appointment; and who consequently enjoy the confidence of the citizens. And for the same reason, it is rare to see young men filling public stations, or turning out tried servants of the public, by dint of electioneering influence. That, is only the case in countries; where, novelty enters deeply into the national character; or where, a long train of corruption in manners has first paved the way for it.

WITH the New-Englandmen, this is not to be found; for they may truly be said to be independent both in circumstances and principles. Independent, in circumstances, as being always industrious; and not panting after unattainable enjoyments. In principles, as not being of desperate fortunes, they are in the habit of enjoying

joying their own opinions, without subjecting themselves to the designs of others. Thus, preserving a steady course, as well in private as in public life, they possess a character jealous of liberty; and indignant of every attempt, which would seduce them from their own immediate interests: or make them swerve from that of their country's good. Hence, faction finds no resting place amongst them, to corrode with the sourness of her leaven, their domestic happiness. Chased away, by the knowledge of a well informed people; she flies to where, ignorance and idleness mould the people for her views, and subject them to the destructive ravages of her empire.

L E T T E R

## L E T T E R X.

*Mobs at New-York. The cause of them, with considerations thereon. Sickness at Philadelphia.*

*New-York, October 16, 1793.*

SINCE last Monday, this city has been disquieted at night by mobs; who, not content with patrolling the streets, have been the cause of some mischief. The occasion of it, was this. During the last week a cause was tried, wherein a young man was indicted of a r—e; and was regularly acquitted. This gave great umbrage to a particular class of citizens; who were decidedly of opinion that he should have been hanged. They spoke warmly against him in different companies, and upon different occasions: until by such means encreasing the fermentation of their passions, they broke out into the extravagancies of a licentious mob.

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THE first thing upon which this torrent burst was Mrs. Carey's house: it was said that she had been his friend upon the occasion, and that her house had been useful to him. They attacked it; and levelled it with the ground. They afterwards directed their strength against similar houses in the city, destroying every thing in them; leaving nothing but the bare walls. Nor, was the young man unfought for. He, was obliged to fly from a place, whose court of justice had upon a liberal trial, acquitted him of the charge. Had he been taken, he certainly could not have suffered long under their tortures; for death would have put an end to his pains. The governor, mayor, and public officers of the city, have been active upon the occasion: a troop of horse was called out, and all good citizens invited to rally round the standard of the laws. The mob has subsided. But not before the mischief was done, which they intended to effect.

WHAT a lamentable thing it is, that this scourge will sometimes arise, to the terror of  
all

all good citizens: in the open defiance of laws, and shaking the foundations of life, and of property. They are in government similar to the convulsive throws of nature, which spread an universal alarm. Were the actors in those scenes, conscious of the injury which they do themselves, and their families, waving that which is done the community at large; they would shudder at the part which they had taken, when they reflected upon the example which had been given. They would perceive that the assistance which they had rendered in committing acts of enormity against others; was the direct way of exposing themselves to a like retaliation. They would perceive, that in those violences, they had broken the bonds of government; and reduced themselves to a state of nature. Where, life, liberty and property, are only secure, in proportion to the strength of him who is attacked, and the weakness of his opponent. Nothing is more volatile, nothing more sudden or more violent in their operations, than the progress of the human passions. They are like fire, which begins with a  
spark



spark : but neglected, rolls over our heads in a flame. And what can be worse, than the passions of an unrestrained mob? They, may be directed to as many different objects, as there are individuals, who compose it. Each one has his revenge, or enmity to gratify; rebellious to the laws, to the peace of their country, they step forth, unrestrained by any thing but an overmatch of power. And in this, are too often the instruments of designing men, of bad characters, and more desperate fortunes.

CAN they answer for the issue of their enterprize? Can they say, thus far thou troubled sea, shalt thou go; and no farther? Alas! they are deceived. And are not brought to a sense of their situation, until perhaps ruin stares them in the face; and tyranny and despotism, trample upon their liberties.

Is a government bad? Let it be amended.  
 Are public officers unjust, or dishonest? Let  
 them

them be removed, and better ones substituted in their place. Are juries partial? Try them and punish them. Are citizens aggrieved? Let them seek redress, according to the laws of their country. Let reason, and remonstrance be the springs of action on the occasion; and not passion, malice or revenge. The effect will be happy. It will give satisfaction to the discontented, and pleasure to the hearts of reflection.

I HAVE been hindered from making my intended expedition from hence to the lakes, which I regret exceedingly: having thereby lost the sight of some of the finest country in the world. Nor, has that been my only mortification. I have been deprived of going to Philadelphia, and of meeting there with characters, whom it was my design to know. Of once more seeing the man, who is the favorite of America. Believe me, the scourge of Heaven has been upon that unfortunate city: twenty thousand of its inhabitants are said to have left  
it:

it: and too many, have taken an eternal adieu!  
There,

“—————. *The sullen door,  
Yet uninfected, on its cautious hinge  
Fearing to turn, abhors Society:  
Dependants, friends, relations, love himself,  
Savaged by woe, forget the tender tie,  
The sweet engagement of the feeling heart.  
But vain their selfish care: the circling sky,  
The wide enlivening air, is full of fate:  
And, struck by turns, in solitary pangs  
They fall, unblest'd, untended, and unmourn'd.”*

BUT I am informed the disorder decreases:  
And the citizens begin to recall their exiled confidence. The approach of winter, seems already to correct the influence of the disease; and to present them with brighter prospects. Commerce, with cautious approaches, begins to resume her sway: and the hopes of returning health, to chase away their fears.

L E T T E R

## L E T T E R    X I.

*The public mind much agitated, in consequence of Mr. Genet's proceedings. Strictures upon his conduct.*

*New-York, November 4th, 1793.*

THE public mind has been kept here in continual agitation since the 22d of the last month, by the conduct of the French minister: who seems determined, that if we do not with a good appetite partake of the dish of politics which he sets before us; he will *from his pure regard to our interests*, cram them down the throats of American citizens.

FROM the time of his departure from Philadelphia in August last, and the publications which about that period took place, respecting the appeal which it was said he threatened making to the people from the President's decisions,

sions, he had been tolerably quiet. It was to the receipt of a letter from general Moultrie requesting an explanation of that business, that he was indebted for the opportunity of stepping forth immediately into action; an occasion he did not fail to improve. Accordingly, a letter which perhaps had only been intended as a private correspondence with him; came forth to the public view, as an official requisition from the governor of South-Carolina: accompanied at the same time, with his official answer,

THIS, immediately became the subject of consideration. With the known friends of America, who had braved the hardships of the late war in conspicuous stations, and still enjoyed the confidence of government; Mr. Genet's answer received universal reprehension. It was approved of, or apologized for by none, but those, whose hearts led them to favor the French revolution; while they did not develop the artifices, contained in all the ministers proceedings: Or by those persons, whose  
greatest

greatest pleasure is when obloquy can be cast upon the federal government: because interest, disappointment, and in many instances delusion, have principled them against it. And that there are such men, eager to catch every convulsion of government, and to improve it for their own private advantage, under the cloak of the public good; is what the page of history often shews us; and what experience in the present times, clearly spreads to our view.

THE public ferment had not yet subsided, when another production of Mr. Genet's mischievous composition appeared in print: serving no other purpose than to rouse the public indignation against his improper interference. It was his answer to the President's proclamation of the 10th of October, dismissing the *Sieur Antoine Charbonet Duplaine*, from the functions, powers, and privileges of vice-vice-consul of the French republic. He  
 “ having under color of his office committed sundry encroachments and infractions on  
 the

“ the laws of the land : and particularly hav  
 “ ing caused a vessel to be rescued with an arm-  
 “ ed force out of the custody of an officer of  
 “ justice, who had arrested the same by pro-  
 “ cesses from his court.”\* By which answer in  
 his letter to the secretary of state, he said,  
 He hastened to declare he did not acknow-  
 ledge its validity. Because the constitution  
 of

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\* I was at Boston when the vessel was rescued out of the  
 custody of the marshal, the case was nearly this. A vessel  
 had been brought into that port as a prize by a small  
 French privateer, which was supposed to be an illegal one ;  
 according to the construction of the ‘ Rules adopted by the  
 President of the United States,’ transmitted to the different  
 collectors by the secretary of the treasury. The marshal  
 was therefore directed to serve a process upon her, but was  
 opposed ; and the vessel was ordered under the guns of the  
 Concorde frigate, then lying in the harbour. And al-  
 though remonstrances were earnestly made to the consul, it  
 was not until several days thereafter, that she was given up  
 to the marshal. Perhaps it would not have been then done,  
 had not capt. Van Dogen deemed it necessary to sail from  
 Boston in the Concorde : thereby no longer affording pro-  
 tection to the vessel.



of the United States had not given the President the right, which he now appears desirous to exercise." Such, was the ground work of his answer, or we may call it his counter-proclamation.

THESE productions of Mr. Genet, may be viewed as epitomes of his political principles : and may be considered under two heads. First, a sincere desire which he has, of making us take an active part with France, against the combined powers of Europe ; whether it should be for our interests or not. And in case he should fail to effectuate that immediately, with the consent of the federal government ; he secondly, is incessantly in all his publications playing upon the passions and prejudices of the people at large ; thereby sowing a jealousy amongst them with regard to our public officers, to weaken the sinews of government, and indirectly effectuate those plans, which have openly been defeated. They, have been the result of reflection no doubt ; although I cannot say of cool

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cool reflection. In them, we find writings wound up with most artful cunning; where sophistry, sentiments of liberty, enthusiasm, oblique attacks against public officers, and even against government, fill up a picture; where, the lights and shades are so nicely blended, as neither to shew where the one ends, or the other begins. This, is the line of conduct of a man sent over here, as minister of a beloved and respected nation! For whose success in the present struggle for liberty, wishes are daily offered up to Heaven from all America.

WARM from France as a republican, he landed on our peaceful shores; welcomed by the plaudits of their inhabitants. Their hearts, ignorant of court politics or intriguing machinations, directed them to lead him by the hand of friendship to their abodes. They loved him, because they loved his country. And every where, they indulged the effusions of their patriotism. Such, were the sentiments  
 universally

universally entertained respecting him; which had he but known in what manner to have used, he would still have enjoyed. But buoyed up with the addresses to him, which announced the good wishes of the people to the cause in which he was engaged: he forgot what should have been the object of his mission, as respecting America. He forgot, that it was her friendship which he was to insure: while, he was led away with the hope of involving her in a war.

THE tendency of this line of conduct, and of these sentiments disseminated through the medium of a press; at length, appeared with alarming symptoms. For although the people themselves had not been appealed to in opposition against the government; yet the appeal had been made to their gratitude, to their generosity, and to their fears. Or why was the correspondence of a foreigner obtruded upon the public. and that in some instances, before the letters written by him could have reached  
 their

their destination? \* It must have been for the express purpose of having an influence with American citizens, tending to favor the designs which he nourished. And an influence it certainly had : for privateers were fitted out under French commissions, in American harbours : and many American citizens, setting at nought the President's proclamation enjoining a neutrality, openly enlisted in the service of France. The judicial power was exerted, to stop the growing evil. Henfield was tried, and acquitted : and cards of invitation were sent by the minister to individuals, inviting them to dinner with citizen Henfield. No one can believe that this pointed attention to a man who had been charged for a disobedience to the laws of his country, could proceed from personal regard :  
it

N O T E.

\* IN his correspondence with Gen. Moultrie, his letter in answer, bears date the 15th October 1793. And the whole of the correspondence was published at New-York, October 22d, 1793.

it was an unbecoming joy, and triumph, which at that moment brought him forward in direct opposition to the wishes of the federal government. And which from that moment, completely forfeited the confidence and esteem which had been extended towards him, by American citizens. For from that time, we may date the retrograde of his career; and follow him in the dereliction of the favor of government.†

AND here, we are at a loss which most to observe, his ignorance of the characters with whom he had to contend; or his effrontery in opposing himself to a phalanx of cool decided opposition. For to one of these causes, must  
be

N O T E.

† Mr. Jefferson's letter as secretary of state, to Mr. Morris the American minister in France, directing him to insist upon the recal of Mr. Genet, bears date as early as the 16th August, 1793.

be ascribed the persevering obstinacy, which has marked, and still continues to mark, the steps of this political character.

LET his instructions be what they may, however full, or however imposing upon his actions: should he be so trammelled by them, as to be allowed no will of his own; but to be obliged by all means in his power to fulfil them: although in having thus acted, he may stand justified to his own country; yet he is entitled to nothing, but the indignation of every true American. Perfectly unjustifiable, and equally reprehensible, for improperly interfering in our domestic government, and endeavouring by every art to lead us into a war, he appears not the friend, but the enemy of our country.

IF Mr. Genet conceived, that the name of *liberty* in America had such a magic effect as to open an immediate avenue *for his schemes* to the  
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the hearts of her people; how egregiously I hope has been mistaken. Liberty is certainly dear to them. They fought for it, they deserved it, and they have received it. They know its excellencies—and it is because they have this knowledge, and wish to retain its advantages, that they have not entered so warmly into his wishes: or brandished the flag of war in defiance of prudence and reflection. With them, the time of revolution is over. Without the shock of nations, or the intrigues of court politicians; they have made, and now enjoy, the most free, and best organized government in the universe—Property, liberty, and life, are secured by its laws: agriculture, commerce, and plenty, are enjoyed by its industry. Genius is encouraged: and every honor is attainable to those who deserve them.—How then he could suppose, that people thus knowing their happy situation, would assist his nation beyond what they were actually bound to do by treaty: how it could ever enter his head that they would be thus forgetful of their situation, or of the character of Americans,

*which*



*which it is high time they should support among themselves,* is really surprising. Nothing but his enthusiasm can be his excuse. And what is that enthusiasm? It is in the breast of man like the electrical fluid; capable of being directed to the *best*, or most *unhappy* purposes. It is that spirit which is the life of all revolutions. It is that which led American soldiers bare-footed, hungry, and unpaid, to crush tyranny, and to plant the laurels of freedom. But it often has been the means of misleading many by the counsels of intriguing and wicked men. Who have thereby satisfied their individual revenge; by connecting it with the great cause of the nation. It is what has protected, or made a mere nullity of the laws of a country: as thereby good inclinations have been directed by the virtuous, or the wicked. With the first, they have joined enthusiasm to reason; with the latter, it has been the companion of folly and destruction. Under this cloak for all actions, perverse men accuse even virtue herself, of aristocracy, that they may trample upon her with impunity: and adorn

crimes

crimes with the names of democracy, that they may be allowed to commit them. Thus, they disgrace the noblest of all causes, those of *the people*, and *of liberty*. \*

How far the enthusiasm which directed Mr. Genet's conduct in this his favorite pursuit, has been engrafted into American systems, witness the President's proclamation of neutrality; approved by the citizens of America†. Can his present conduct then proceed from misinfor-  
 mation

N O T E S.

\* “ Aujourd'hui ces pervers aristocratisent la vertu même, pour la fouler aux pieds. Ils démocratisent le crime, pour avoir le droit de le commettre : et c'est ainsi qu'ils dishonnorent la plus belle des causes, celle du peuple et de la liberté.” in a speech of monsieur Vergniaud, to the national assembly of France.

† Since writing the above, the President's proclamation has been approved by both houses of Congress; as having been wise and expedient.

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mation ? It were idle to suppose so. He cannot be unacquainted with a determination which is officially and solemnly published to the world. He must then, act thus from *design*. And that, more under its present complexion, of gratifying his spleen ; than to serve the interests of his country. It cannot be to strengthen the chain of friendship with her. For, were that his object ; he is toiling to a direct frustration of his ends. He is vilifying, and blaming by innuendo's and equivocal expressions, the most beloved and respected character in the union. Else, why charge *some of America's ancient friends with indifference?* why charge them with *falsehoods?* Why arraign certain officers of the federal government with *intentions both destructive of liberty, and favorable to our enemies?* Why declare that their *tameness, their small measures in the common danger, which menaces free nations, did not appear to him to be consistent with the sentiments of their fellow citizens, with the true interests of their country?* Why express his grief at seeing General Washington, that celebrated hero of liberty accessible to

men, whose schemes could only darken his glory? Why, charge the President with exercising an illegal right of dismissing the vice-consul at Boston from his office? Why throw out the threat that this becomes a cause of war? Why cast away the instruction and guidance of the best civilians † whom the world has produced; vilify them as hired jurisprudents, and rely only upon the fundamental points of our liberty, and that of his country, and upon the rights of man as being engraven in his memory, in characters not to be effaced, and enclosed in his breast with the sources of life? Why use this language? More, the  
child

N O T E.

† “ I do not recollect what the worm eaten writings of *Grotius*, *Puffendorf*, and *Vattel* say on this subject. I thank God I have forgot what these hired jurisprudents have written upon the rights of nations, at a period when they were all enchained. But the fundamental points of your liberty, and our own, are engraven in my memory in characters not to be effaced, and the Rights of Man are enclosed in my breast with the source of life.” Mr. Genet’s letter of the 27th October, 1793, to the secretary of state.

child of an heated imagination ; than the cool reflection of a diplomatic character || ? But to burst the hands of all law and order ; and to fan the embers of a wild enthusiasm—which, although suited to effect revolutions, and to accomplish arduous enterprizes ; is not adapted to support good government. Which, he would have us believe is the mother of all virtue, and of all abilities. And which, from the breast of ignorance or folly, can in his opinion give rise to a knowledge of the fundamental points of liberty, and the rights of man : as the attrition of steel strikes out the latent fire, from the body of a flint.

WHEN this man is observed, continuing this political rant, charging government with a  
tamenefs

N O T E.

|| ALL these expressions may be found in his letter to the President of the 13th August : his letter to governor Moultrie. And that to the secretary of state.

tameness and small measures, in the common danger which menaces free nations. When he tells General Washington, that he has not penetration enough to choose those who should be his advisers. When we see him patronizing clubs and societies, throughout the United States; endeavouring thereby to extend his influence, and to support his tottering character§  
Is

N O T E.

§ “By a very singular fatality, the representatives of the republic in America, are agents of the traitors whom she has punished. The brother in law of Biffet is consul general with the United States from France: Another man, Genet, sent by Le Brun and Briffot, with the charge of plenipotentiary agent, resides also at Philadelphia, and has faithfully fulfilled their designs and instructions. He has endeavoured to irritate the American government against us, and has made proposals to them equally contrary to the interests of both nations. By a very remarkable contrast, while those who sent him to America persecuted at Paris the popular societies, and denounced as anarchists the Jacobins courageously struggling against tyranny: Genet, at Philadelphia, made himself

Is there one American who doth not feel his soul roused in just indignation against this meddler in our councils, and stranger to our soil? Is there one, enjoying the rights of man, who does not feel his liberties encroached upon; and that by foreign influence? Bold enough to interfere with the branches of government, and to dictate what they should observe! Without at once making him know the ground, upon which he stands; and the tenderness, with which he should tread. Without bringing quickly to his recollection, the respect which he owes to a country, equally foreign with his own; and equally jealous of her rights and privileges. And in fine, without offering up every wish, and making every honest exertion for the recall of one, whose enthusiasm

‘himself the chief of a club there, and never ceased to make and excite motions equally injurious and perplexing to government.’—Citizen Robespierre’s report in the name of the committee of public welfare, to the national convention of France, respecting the political situation of the republic in November 1793.



enthusiasm has broken the reins of reason and of prudence; and whose actions are continually affronting a government with insults, with which, his nation wishes to be in the strictest amity? If these were not the true opinions to be entertained respecting his measures, in vain have we fought for liberty and independence. We may pursue them: but like phantoms they will elude, and for ever disappoint our expectations. Shackled by the politics of others, and led away by the gaudy colors which they spread, we cannot be said to be free or independent. For power of *will* and *action* is essential to the being so. Without them, we are but the mere instruments of others designs: or the unfortunate dupes, of our own credulity.

PERSONS are too apt, not to discriminate between *men*, and *things*. As the love which Americans had for France, was at once transferred to her minister; so, if he doth not haste to act with prudence, or his country doth not immediately recal him; the dislike which is now entertained

entertained against him, may be transferred to his country. And may not be withdrawn, until after she has smarted under its effects. It is thus, that the human passions proceed; which, when wound up to an high tone, embrace all connected to the principal with the love or hatred, which is entertained for him. When war is inevitable, and the subject is fairly brought, absolutely to be considered, what part shall be taken by America; she must lean to the side of liberty: for she acknowledges no other influence upon earth. But until that happens, I apprehend it is the part of every citizen to respect his own situation: *and to attend to the interests of his country.* Firm, in this line of conduct, he will be unshaken by the arts of faction; and unawed by the threats of power. Reason, will have a just ascendancy over his actions; and happiness, in all probability will crown his pursuits.







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